WAR DIARY

7.5.1940
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Minesweeping — Enemy minesweepers observed sweeping parallel to the coast near Stavanger (STURGEON 0035/7)

No cruiser seen between Juist and Norderney (c.f. 5/5.) About 33 small m.v.'s in or near harbour at Norderney, 2 M.V.'s 53° 39' N. 6° 46' E., 7 M.V.'s (one 10,000 tons) 53° 42' N. 6° 50' E. 1 M.V. 53° 42'N. 7° 0' E. (Chatham A/C H.Q. 1523/7). Photographs taken early in the afternoon 6/5 reveal only Vorposten vessels, dredgers and barges. (I.C.O.444/40)

Unidentified Units — By D/F at 1910/7 unidentified enemy units in 55° 45' N. 6° 25' E. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C.2121/7) 2338/7 unknown enemy unit in 55° 26' N. 4° 10' E. (I.C.O.444/40)

M.V. in Hardanger Fjord. — Merchant ship about 8000 tons, presumed German, anchored in Hardanger Fjord 1 0735. (I.C.O.444/40)

2 Minelayers are reported to have been sighted between 0300 and 0500/7, between 51° 58' N. 3° 14' E. and 51° 30' N. 3° 4' E. (off Flushing). Presumed to have been of the armed type. (I.C.O.444/40).

German troops reported at M.O. and Murmansk.

Kirkenes to be seized. — Norwegian Legation Stockholm reports German motorised troops are already in Mo and also that over 100 troop carrying planes proceeded towards Narvik. A proportion would probably be carrying foo food.

2. From a Norwegian Officer just returned from Namsos it is learned that neither railway nor road Namsos-Mosjoen were destroyed nor prepared for d demolition. There is an uncompleted gap of 50 kilometres in rail between Lendh and Kjerringvatnet.

3. President Hambro has received information that 200 German sailors in uniform have arrived at Murmansk. He believes another operation is in preparation to seize Kirkenes where 4000 men are now employed in iron fields. Ends. No.T.C.O.

British W.O. assess this report as unconfirmed but worthy of consideration. (D.D.I.C. 1214/7 to F.O. Narvik & C.in C. H.F.).

I can send DEVONSHIRE to Kirkenes if desired (C. in C. H.F.). 1921/7

HOME COMMANDS 7.5.40

Mining.

Blyth Proposing to sweep with magnetic sweep skids. Colliery has been cleared (NOIC 1220/7, 2336/6)

Hy 2333/2. Mine has been exploded. Blyth will be reopened at 1900/7. (NOIC Blyth 1332/7, NOIC Tyne 2112/7)

East Coast Ports.	All now open except Blyth (D.C.0800/7)
Operation A.	Ships to sail for, 9/5 (C in C Rosyth 1013/7)
Unexplained explosion.	E. of Beachy Head 2030/7 (H [illegible]/40)
Operation DZ	I do not intend to lay mines in Frei Fiordan and Hogird Fiords (operation DZ) unless assured of co-operation of RAF by bombing aerodromes in Trondheim area at same time that mines are being laid, which would be 0130. Battle flight to be provided also for minelayers while withdrawing. Request I may be informed when above co-operation will be available, passage from Scapa to scene of operations will take about 30 hours.(C in C H F 1638/7, 1405/7). Reply. Air Ministry are unable to undertake bombing of aerodromes in Trondheim area. Battle flight cannot reach Frei Fiordan and can only remain near Hogvid Fiord for ½ hour (VCNS 1850/7, 2343/7).
Sweeping Reports.	Magnetic mine exploded by AA sweep 51° 27' 12" N 4°26" W (NOIC Swansea 1550/7) One German Y type mine cut south of Q25 60 in 51° 17'.5' N 1° 48.8E. One magnetic mine detonated due to unknown cause 6/8 1 mile N of Male Lee Ruins Casino (VA Dover 2054/7).
Convoys OA & OB	Sequence (DTD.1354/7)
MT	No MT will sail 8/7 (C in C Rosyth 1104/7)
OB 145G) OA 145G)	To N.V. and become OG29 (C in C W.A.1019/7)
Portugal Spain Turkey	To be treated as adjacent neutral countries (DNSD 2109/7)
Danish Trawlers	Hy 0907/7. Danish Trawlers are to be escorted to Humber instead of to Yarmouth (C in C Nore 1518/7 to WITCHCH, PUFFIN) Several Danish reported fishing near 54°0' N 2°40E. When released by PRINCESS VICTORIA 2 corvettes are to proceed immediately to this vicinity and escort any Danish trawlers found to Yarmouth (C in C Nore 0907/7 to MALLARD). EMANUEL and MACKENZIE seen in under escort to Kirkwall with full cargo fish. Ships and cargoes have been seized and are being diverted under escort to Aberdeen for discharge of fish.(OCSO Kirkwall 1030/7, 1830/7).
TASMANIA	(Danish) Naval prize, sailed for Greenock,(NOIC Falmouth 1430/7)
Germans orders to Norwegian ships.	To sail immediately for nearest neutral port and stay there; not to discharge cargo. Intercept from Bergen Radio (Durnham Radio 1845/7)

WAR DIARY. 7.5.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Dutch precautions. Press report Navy and Air Force leave also cancelled.

Risk of d.c's being hit by splinters. CARLISLE 1120/6. If you concur, please issue instructions that when operating in waters where heavy air attack may be expected, non-asdic fitted ships should either land their depth charges or stow them below upper deck. (D.A/S.W.2023/7 to C.in C. H.F.) (PELICAN'S d.c's were detonated in this way - M.S.M.)

HUNTER'S men. Will not be interned but are free to leave as soon as we can arrange their departure (Mr. Mallet, Stockholm 0155/7).

Smoke Candles. Observed 1½ miles N.E. of contact of position 0930 and 1010/6. SHELDRAKE to investigate (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1215/7).

WEATHER.

0500, B.S.T.

	Wind.	Visibility.	Outlook.
North Sea.	Westerly, light or moderate.	Moderate or good.	Similar.
Channel.	Variable or northerly light.	Moderate or good, mist on French coast.	Similar.
W.Approaches.	N., light.	Good.	Similar.
Horns Reef.	Variable, light.	Moderate or poor.	Wind becoming W. moderate, visibility improving.
W. Coast Norway.	S.W. Force 4-5.	Good in N., moderate or poor S. of 65° N.	Weather deteriorating in North, similar in South.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

SEAL — A report from Sweden states that the crew of a pilot steamer which had arrived in Goteborg had witnessed the capture of a British S/M by a German destroyer, close to the 3 mile limit on the morning of 5/5. The crew of the S/M had been taken aboard the destroyer and the 2 ships had sailed in a southerly direction. This report is not believed either by V.A. (S) or in the Admiralty and N.A. Sweden has been asked urgently for details. (see 6/5 - Submarines).

GROM — To be replaced by one of our new destroyers, to be manned by survivors of GROM and named after her. (Private Office 1030/7).

BALZAC — A.A. storeship, grounded in Minches 7/5. Arrived Stornoway 1330/7. Her gear is to be transferred to s.s. MARINA. (V.C.N.S. 247)

Foreign Stations.

s.s. MATAKANA — Badly damaged, cannot be refloated. Off Bahamas. (C. in C. A.W.I.1927/7)

War Diary 8. 5. 1940
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Dutch Apprehensions

During the last 24 hours the Dutch Government has received various reports stating that a German attack on Holland is imminent. There have, however, been no reports of German military or naval movements for this purpose, but their military dispositions are such that an attack could be mounted at any moment and with a minimum of warning. Although the Dutch General Staff have stated that there is no indication of German military activity, the Dutch Government are taking wide precautions, including the laying of mines in their territorial waters, stopping leave in the defence forces, and calling up reserves. The reports referred to appear to have originated in Berlin and the only concrete evidence available is that Germany yesterday closed the Dutch frontier, which she has done before. (D.N.I. 1910/8, approved by V.C.N.S.)

The story of a forthcoming German attack, which has caused the present apprehension in Holland has been planted in many places throughout the world. The Dutch General Staff are not unduly apprehensive. (M.S.M.)

Reports of German seizure of Kirkenes imminent.

DEVONSHIRE is being sent to Kirkenes in connection with the above.

Narvik Area

CALCUTTA and CAIRO are providing A.A. protection. COVENTRY joins shortly. The arrival of ARK ROYAL had a marked effect for 24 hours, but bombing of all Narvik anchorages has begun again. CURLEW has been ordered to rejoin V.A.(A). One British fighter was forced down 8/5.

ISIS struck submerged wreckage in Balangen Fjord, near Narvik, which wrecked a propeller. She landed her troops and is being towed by ILEX to the base at Skjelfiord. ISIS is capable of slow speed on one engine.

The German claim to have entered Mo and Mosjoem is false.

Iceland (Operation Fork)

GLASGOW, BERWICK and 2 destroyers sailed 0510/8 and are expected at Reyjavik 0500/10.

The War Office are to relieve the R.M. Battalion by a Brigade as soon as possible.

Mining

There are reports of 2 ships and 4 trawlers sunk off Vinga. (See M.S.M. for the inference)

War Diary 8. 5. 1940
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Sweep of the Dutch and Belgian coasts

Was carried out by French destroyer UNISON.

Attack on enemy transports by TAKU

At 1750/8 TAKU 100 miles N.N.W. of Horns Reef attacked 2 transports escorted by 2 destroyers, with 10 torpedoes and estimates 3 hits. She was subsequently depth charged for 5 hours and retired to the westward to examine her damage.

British Air Activity.

An attack on Stavanger aerodrome was made during the night 7/8 May. Only one out of 17 aircraft reached Stavanger, low cloud preventing the others from locating the target.

The reconnaissance policy now being followed includes:-

(a) strong A/S patrols in the Orkneys and Shetlands areas.
(b) reconnaissance of the Norwegian coast.
(c) searches up the Dutch coast.
(d) reconnaissance of Horns Reef area.

Enemy Air Activity

At 1100/8 an enemy aircraft was reported over the Thames Estuary, which flew coastwise to Whitby before making off. An unidentified aircraft was reported in the Firth of Forth 1130/8. There was intermittent activity by enemy aircraft during the day, but nothing of any major importance occurred.

General

There is a serious shortage of communications ratings and it is impossible to meet all existing commitments. The situation should be eased at the end of June, when the ratings taken in at the commencement of the war will be coming forward.
(M.S.M.

War Diary 8. 5. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

DEVONSHIRE — is to be sent to Kirkenes (1st S.L. 0013/8, C. in C.H.F. 0917/8)

PENELOPE — To be escorted to U.K. by ZULU, CAMPBELL, WITCH, BLYSKAVICA. (FAME 0423/8).

20th D.F. — In view of your 2343/7, R.A.(S) 1006/8, reporting situation at Trondheim and also of possible development in south, I am sending 20th D.F. back to Humber now. (C. in C.H.F. to Admty. 1529/8).

Operations

Narvik

RESOLUTION — Your 2151/7. No objection to her use as proposed. Conditions.

AURORA, ENTERPRISE — Not possible to send relief at present owing to situation in Holland.

CALCUTTA, CAIRO — Are at Narvik.

COVENTRY — Joins shortly.

A.A. Defence — Use of ships as platforms for A.A. guns is most uneconomical, and must be regarded as temporary expedient only.
Hoped that with capture of Narvik the scale of air attack will diminish. (1st S.L. /8)

CURLEW — is to return to Harstad forthwith, fuel and rejoin V.A.(A). My 0604/8 to CURLEW is cancelled. (F.O. Narvik 0953/8)

D.6., ESCORT — Orders and route for (N.A.D.H.F. 0931/8)

Enemy Aircraft Reports — re method of W/T reports of enemy aircraft in Narvik area. (F.O. Narvik, 1044/8).

Force for Ballangen — RESOLUTION, NEPTUNE, ENTERPRISE, AURORA, Capt.(D)9, HAVELOCK, BEDOUIN, FAME, VINDICTIVE, PROTECTOR. Foregoing ships, one destroyer detailed by Capt.(D)9, 3 destroyers detailed by FAME, and 2 A/S trawlers detailed by AURORA to be off Ballangen at 1000/10. (F.O. Narvik 1851/8)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

Narvik

West Fiord Destroyer Patrol

Your 1909/7. Detail two from convoy escorts now in Narvik area. (C. in C.H.F. 1053/8)
Your 1053/8. When PENELOPE sails there will be 6 destroyers at Harstad, 3 duty, 2 troop carrying. In Ofot Fiord 5 destroyers and escort of 3 for RESOLUTION. 3 destroyers sailing with Polish Brigade ships. To detach 2 escort destroyers could only be done at expense of escort for RESOLUTION. (F.O. Narvik to C. in C.H.F. 1840/8).

Operation BISHOP

Amendments to my 1939/6. Force reduced to 9 swordfish, 6 Walrus, 40 officers, 200 men etc. (D.N.A.D. 1820/8)

FURIOUS / GLORIOUS

Arrangements for aircraft in. Principle of my 2012/2 stands. (D.N.A.D. 1824/8).

Summary of Situation

Skaanland

I today visited Skaanland aerodrome, progress is slow and at least nine days required to allow of planes using it.

ARK ROYAL

ARK ROYAL's arrival had a marked effect for 24 hours, but bombing has begun again, all anchorages being attacked p.m. 8/5, as well as ships off Narvik.

Planes Shot Down

Ships have shot down three planes and fighters, one during the last week. One British fighter was forced down today. Several Poles rescued from water after GROM sank were suffering from machine-gun bullet wounds. Hope the manning of a British destroyer by crew of Polish destroyer GROM may have favourable consideration, they are excellent material.

Bjervik

Information as to abandonment of Bjervik appears quite unfounded. Perhaps the authorities should not be given such a high order of reliability.

French Landing

An operation involving a landing of French troops near Bjervik takes place night 10-11 May, having as its object capture of Oynejord Peninsula and establishment of artillery there and cleaning up of enemy opposing French and Norwegians south of Oratangen, the 24th Brigade at same time occupying Ankenes Peninsula and Bessford. I am now committed to this operation but shall prepare for more direct attack in case there is no apparent result on line

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik (Continued)

Stowage Plans — Greatly facilitate unloading of store ships if stowage plans as well as bills of lading are forwarded. (R.A. Narvik, 1837/8).

Harstad Staff — Turn-round of ships delayed by shortage of staff. 4 R.N.R. officers experienced in handling cargo and clerical shipping staff asked for. (R.A. Narvik, 1003/8)

A.A. Batteries — Adty. 1906/7 asking whether ready to receive 2 batteries and crews of 3 20-barrelled Unrifled Projectors (V.P's). Reply - Yes. (F.O. Narvik 1459/8)

Southern Railway Car Ferries — Re. Adty. 2009/6. Details of WOOTTON and HILLSEA. Suitable to make passage under fine weather conditions and to take part in operations. Withdrawal will leave Portsmouth only FISHBOURNE which is understood to be inadequate to deal with local military and dockyard traffic. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1627/8).

BALZAC, COXWOLD — Damaged and unable to proceed with Convoy NS 2. Contents of BALZAC will be transhipped into MARINA whom it is hoped to sail with NS 3. Petrol and oil ex. COXWOLD is being sent in ULSTER MONARCH, further supply arrives in NS 3. (D.O.D.(H) 1912/8).

Mosjoen - Mo - Bodo.

No German Troops in Mo. — Intercepted Norwegian mail steamer HELGEL in EN fiord, bound Mosjoen from Mo. Stating no Germans in MO but Germans one day march from Mosjoen last night. Proceeding Mo to investigate. (FIREDRAKE 1300/8)

Mosjoen — My 1300. Germans have reached Lake Majavarn, 50 miles S. of Mosjoen. Main Norwegian defence at Fellingfors, 25 miles S. of Mosjoen, are expected to check advance. 250 British troops at Mo and about 150 Allied troops at Mosjoen. Army consider landing at Mosjoen feasible. Am proceeding Skjel Fiord to oil. (FIREDRAKE 1510/8).

French force at Mosjoen communicated with Narvik at 1015 today and reported all well. This information forwarded in view of Press reports that Germans have entered Mosjoen. (D. of P.

WAR DIARY.

SECRET.

OPERATIONS. 8.5.40. Wednesday.

Iceland - Operation FORK.

Landing Grounds. Ref. paragraph 7 of orders to Col. Sturges. While it will be possible to occupy landing grounds near Reykjavik, a further landing ground is now reported to exist at Akureyre (65°40'N, 18°02'W.) Military force with demolitions is therefore to be despatched in a destroyer to put this landing ground temporarily out of action. Methods suggested, Wing Commander Barnes should be consulted. Force to return to Reykjavik when task completed. (D.O.D.(H) to BERWICK 1345/8).

Your 1343/7. The commitments of this force are already considerable in addition to which it has been necessary for the task contained in my 1345/8 to be carried out. In these circumstances, the occupation of Budaretri Jtrand must await the arrival of the infantry brigade which will relieve Force Fork at an early date (D.O.D.(H) 1346/8 to C. in C. H.F.)

Dutch Coast.

Dutch Mines. Dutch have laid mines inside territorial waters N. of Terschelling Island and Vlieland. Extent of those areas has not been defined.(R.A.(S) 1136/8 to S/M's on Patrol)

Operations X.D. D.M.L.G. In view of Admiralty 2317/7 (re operation XD, naval parties to be ready at 2 hours' notice) can it be accepted that 4 destroyers from Dover will take part in Operation DMLG on 10/5 vide my 1152/7? (V.A. Dover 1534/8) Reply. Yes. (D.O.D.(H) 1928/8)

WAR DIARY.

SECRET.

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WAR DIARY. 8th May, 1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Troop convoys.

Near Faroes. Estimated movements of convoys. (C.in C. Rosyth 1735/8)

ULSTER MONARCH To sail for Narvik area as soon as loaded. (D.O.D.(H) 1708/8).

Submarines.

Patrol of Fro Havet. Your 1006/8.(A) should like CLYDE to continue this patrol for present unless she is required urgently elsewhere, no relief need, however be contemplated.
(B) For various reasons I have had to abandon laying minefields 1, 2 and 3 in my 2345/30/4 by surface craft. Could any or all of these be laid by S/m's? (C.in C., H.F.1600/8 to V.A.(S))

Reply. Have ordered NARWHAL to carry out (2) of your 2345/30/4 now instead of JSND 5130 (58° 51'N 5° 3o' E) in view of my 2112. (1) of your 1600 is not considered practicable on account of navigational difficulties. Vicinity of PFCU 3012 (63° 30' N 8° 12' E) is proposed as alternative, earliest date of laying in latter position will be about 1/6 (V.A.(S) 2338/8)

Positions 0600/9 (D.C.1853/8)

Signalling No signals are to be made to s/m's on patrol until further orders (V.A.(S)1912/8).

TAKU Attacks. 2 transports and 2 destroyers were attacked by TAKU at 1730/8 in position approx. 57° N. 6°E. (70' S.S.W. of Lindesnes). Possibly obtained 3 hits. (I.C.0445/40).
A Battle Flight of Hudsons was sent to this position.

SEVERN, ORZEL } Orders to (V.A.(S) 1537/8)

WAR DIARY. 8th May, 1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Norwegian Naval Units.

Sub-Lieut. Berntsen, Royal Norwegian Navy, at present in Norwegian s.s. AKABAHRA at Kirkwall, reports that Norwegian destroyer TROLL, torpedo boat SNOGG, and submarine B.6 have been abandoned and left to be taken over by Germans. At 2200/5, these vessels were in Midtgulen, a creek of the Frojsjo, in lat. 61° 4' N., 5° 4' E., ¼ of a mile east of the town of Floro. Norwegian BERA, fully loaded with carbide, speed 6 knots, was lying in Sorgulen, a creek of Frojsjo, 60° 45½' N., 5° 7' E., at same time. Master and crew reported unwilling to take ship to British port owing to her low speed. (C.C.S.O., Kirkwall, 1405/8)

WAR DIARY.

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

AIR.

British Air Activity.

Attack on Stavanger aerodrome by 17 R.A.F. a/c's. One a/c attacked aerodrome, remaining a/c's could not locate target owing to low cloud (H.Q.B.C. 0440/8).

2 Skuas of 806 Squadron to leave Hatston 0500/9 for reconnaissance of Bergen area, each carrying one 500 lb bomb which may be utilised against a suitable target. Depending on result of this reconnaissance, remaining Skuas of 806 Squadron to make a bombing attack later in the day. (A.C.O.S.1800/8) (Donibristle 1850/8)

Tasks for 9/5 (Donibristle, 2000/8)

Reconnaissance of Stavanger, etc. 1022/8 to 1113/8 (Donibristle 1435/8).

British Air Activity.

Your 1101/6 paragraph 5, A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command, reports as follows:- "My Blenheims are long range fighters not bombers. They can only carry four 25 lbs incendiary bombs. Also Trondheim is outside Blenheim radius of action from Hatston" (5th S.L. to C. in C. H.F. 1541/8).

My 1620/7, re bombing attack on objectives in Bergen. Operation postponed owing to weather. Skuas to be released to 2 hours' notice. (A.C.O.S. 1050/8 to Hatston).

Enemy Air Activity.

Flights.

The North Sea Meteorological Flight approached the N.E. Coast of Scotland and covered the area to the East Coast of the Orkneys and Shetlands. An enemy a/c appeared over the Thames Estuary during the forenoon and flew coastwise as far north as Whitby, repeating a similar flight on the afternoon of 7/5. Another enemy a/c appears to have made a flight in the Southern North Sea during the afternoon, approaching within 25 miles of the East Coast and returning to its base by way of the Dutch Coast, presumably on reconnaissance.

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air (Continued).

Enemy Air Activity (Continued).

Narvik. Air activity increased somewhat during the day in the Narvik area, all anchorages occupied by Allied vessels, also H.M. ships off Narvik, being bombed. H.M. ships reported enemy aircraft on coastal reconnaissance off Mosjoen during the late afternoon. It is understood that four enemy aircraft have been shot down in the Narvik area during the past week. (I.C., 0445/40).
There were various reports of enemy aircraft off the East Coast and one unidentified off the Firth of Forth during the evening and after dark.

Dutch Coast. At 6718, an a/c was reported over Orford Ness Southwold, Bungay and Norwich and crossed the coast on a northerly course S.E. of Cromer, being finally lost track of at 0838 120 miles E. of Farne Islands. During the afternoon, a reconnaissance of the Dutch Coast from Flushing northwards was carried out apparently for purpose of reporting immediately all surface craft sighted. (H.Q.C.C. 1717/8).

Lessons. Summary of experience gained in air attacks. (A.C.N.S. 0221/8, 1524/8)

Defence Against Attack. Cancel my 1917/7. Experience of ships in Central Norway operations confirms that when subject to bombing attacks ships should when practicable shape course and speed to favour development of gunfire and so that the relative wind is high and if possible across the probable direction of final approach. It follows that if a ship is stopped she is a more favourable target for bombers. (A.C.N.S. to F.O. Narvik 1518/8).

MINING.

Operation B.S.3. Orders for. (D.D.O.D.(M) 2038/8)

Operation Z.M.C. Orders for. (D.D.O.D.(M) 1704/8)

HOME COMMANDS.
Mining

E. Coast Mine barrier. N.O.I.C. Leith reports that Dutch small craft state in conversation that there are fewer mines in East Coast barrier than the authorities make out. Speed with which some of these craft make the passage from Antwerp to N.E. coast ports tends to bear out that they ignore routeing instructions and cross the barrier at will (C.in C. Rosyth 0210/8)

Mines to be laid by NARWHAL. See Submarines.

Mines cut and exploded. A new German mine was cut in southern edge of the Goodwin - Fairy Bank Channel, 51°18.1'N., 01°59'E. There is a possibility of magnetic mines in 49°36'N., 00°01'E. - north of Le Havre.
A heavy explosion S.W. from Newhaven was reported at 1507/8. 3 heavy explosions occurred at 2318/8 in 52°50'N., 3°50'E., 33 miles W.by S. of Texel. (I.C.0445/40).

Swedish Minefield. Sweden has announced defensive minefields within territorial waters off Stockholm. (I.C.0445/40)

The following was broadcast from Motala in Swedish at 1900/8

> Announcement by the Swedish Admiralty in connection with minefields laid in Stockholm outer archipelago. In order to simplify Sweden's neutrality guard mines have been laid in the outer archipelago within Swedish territorial waters and within the outermost reefs which are not submerged permanently. Between latitude N.58 : 42' and latitude N.59 :54' within an area bounded on the W. from the remainder of the archipelago by a straight line connecting the above latitudes.

WAR DIARY.

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

MINING.

Gulfs of Bothnia and Finland.

Finnish Naval staff announce that traffic to the ports of South and S.W.Finland must proceed only through the Aaland Sea. The ports of the Gulf of Finland will be open to traffic when ice conditions allow. Finnish territorial waters in the Aaland Sea, the Baltic and the Gulf of Finland are still dangerous for navigation because of mines. Further, during the Russo-Finnish War, the following areas were mined, and are dangerous to navigation:-

1. Gulf of Hango between meridian 23°13' and 23° 0' East; the Southern limit extends to 50°37' and the Northern to the Finnish territorial waters.

2. South of Helsinke, East meridian 25°25' Eastern length, and South 59°57' Northern length. ..... Northern and Western limit to the Finnish territorial waters. (Lahti 2045/8).

WAR DIARY.

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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WAR DIARY

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

1 Large M/V	Presumably enemy in Hardanger Fjord, anchored, no smoke from funnels. When proceeding up coast past Bergen observed very large fire burning in Bergen, flames reaching 200/300 ft. (Donibristle 0735/8)
20 Ships	Observed by security Patrol 53° 20' N. 4° 0' E. 2150/7, small cargoer trawler type, course could not be identified. (H.Q.B.C.0737/8).

WAR DIARY

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Prohibition in Downs. Re. Navigation Order No.5/1940. Consider it very necessary to extend prohibition to use of rowing boats in Downs. Mined areas and danger of landing of enemy agents from neutral vessels render this precaution most desirable. Request immediate authority to extend this prohibition in view of imminence of Whitsun holidays. (V.A. Dover, 1507/8).

Ports Open. Reported at Staff Meeting at 1000/8 . that all ports are now open.

Mediterranean Has been re-opened to British Merchant Shipping. (D.T.D.0200/8)

War Diary

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

STYRBIORN — Swedish tug, is stated to have been among the ships sunk at Narvik on 10/4 or 13/4 (Lloyds).

OXELOSUND — Swedish (5613 tons) was badly damaged at Narvik but was still afloat 13/4. (Lloyds).

0500 B.S.T.

WEATHER.

	Wind		Visibility	Outlook.
North Sea	In East. South) In West. N.W.)	Moderate	Mod. to poor	Similar until late afternon
Channel	Light. S.S.W.		Mod. to good	N.W. Moderate wind. Moderate visibility.
W.Approaches	Light, variable		Mod. to good, fog patches.	Similar, improving visibility.
Horns Reef	Light northerly		Mod. to good.	Similar, visibility deteriorating in afternoon.
W. coast of Norway.	Moderate southerly		Moderate	Similar.

WAR DIARY.

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ISIS damaged. Struck submerged wreckage in Balangen Fiord which bumped along bottom without apparent damage b but wrecked propellors before they could be stopped. Troops landed safely. Have ordered ILEX to tow me to Skjel Fiord (ISIS,1859/8) H.M.S. ISIS in tow of ILEX has damaged propellor but is capable of slow speed on one engine, arriving Skjelfiord a.m. tomorrow. (F.O. Narvik to PENELOPE 2312/8)

PELICAN Taken in hand for damage repairs 8/5. (A.S. Chatham,1306/8)

SEAL capture. Your No. 83. Attack on submarine was made by 2 German a/c with bombs in position 7 miles West Stora Polsen light. S/M surfaced with a list and tail heavy and showing a white flag attached periscope. Subsequently taken in tow by two German minesweepers. A swedish minesweeper had been sent out and may have been in vicinity. Source, Commanding Admiral, West Coast. German report in Stockholm Press says Captain and one rating taken off by seaplane and remainder of crew subsequently taken off by a patrol vessel. (A.N.A.Stockholm 1707/8)

COXWOLD With patrol (damaged 7/5) escorted by DOULONNAIS is due at Scapa.

PENN HERCULES LEONORA. British fishing smacks, overdue, regarded as lost (Lloyds)

WAR DIARY. 8.5.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Raider Reports. The following reports have been received:-
2048GMT 25/4 British Ship PRINCESA heard QQQQ message followed by Lat 25°5' Long37° 18' Signal appeared to be jambed. W/T operator young and inexperienced.
0954/27/4 S.S. BRITISH CHIVALRY heard QQQQ 30°41'N 30°22' or 39°22' W. British S.S. DONAX being chased.
It is presumed position in first report was in North Atlantic. These reports indicate the possibility of a raider being in the Atlantic.
S.S. DONAX is due at Houston shortly (I.C.0444/40)
Reports have now been cancelled (I.C.0445/40)

French Positions. Convoys and patrols 1300/9 (D.C.0037/9) 1200/8 (D.C.0011/8)

Swedish Destroyers. Admiralty 1505/9. Swedish destroyers have fuelled and are still here waiting orders for continuance of voyage to Sweden (N.A. Lisbon, 1547/8).

South Atlantic.

Trawlers building. D.N.I.1203/7. Steel would be imported from U.S.A. 6 steel trawlers offered as being quicker in construction but wood can be substituted if desired (A.N.A.Rio de Janeiro 1159/8).

America and West Indies.

WAR DIARY.

Mediterranean. 8.5.40.
Wednesday.

Reopening. British merchant ships which have been recalled to Aden by G.B.M.S. message are to be instructed to proceed through the Mediterranean (D.T.D.0200/8 to NOIC Aden)

PROTECTOR. Asking if he can have her back in Mediterranean to relay the indicator nets at Alexandria, which are in a bad way (C. in C. Med 0219/8 to Admiralty)

U.S.3. Admiralty 1905/7, re destroyers for U.S.3. Two more destroyers will be sent if situation and immobilisation of battle squadrons can be accepted for period of their absence. (C. in C. Med. 2203/8) is unchanged

East Indies.

Shipping All British merchant ships which left Aden south bound for U.K. via Cape on or after 4/5 are to return to Aden for orders (D.T.D.0113/8)

U.S.2. G.B.M.S. 3 messages 0059/8 and 0113/8. These changes are likely to cause congestion at Aden round about date of arrival of U.S.2 In order that U.S.2 and its escort may not be delayed thereby request orders for merchant ships may reach Aden before their arrival. (C. in C. E.I., 1801Z/8)

Air Escort. Ref. 1905/7/5. Such air escort as O.C., R.A.F. Middle East can provide is being resumed. Intend SHOREHAM shall be included in escort of U.S.2 as far as 22°N. (C. in C. E.I., 18392/8)

CARAIBE. French A.M.O. visiting Comoso Group and Western Madagascar ports between 8 and 20/5. (C. in C.E.I 10562/8)

SHOREHAM relief. Ref. prosivion of yacht for Persian Gulf to relieve SHOREHAM, SEABELLE II has been allocated and will fit out at Bombay. (D.P.S.1827/8)

China.

Hong Kong Dockyard. Representing that refitting programme in C. in C. China's 631 G./1/5 will presumably reduce capacity for work of the destroyers, and suggesting work be provided from other fleets or commercial work undertaken to maintain the yard for possible war requirements. (Cdre i/c Hong Kong 0402Z/8)

Australia.

U.S.3. Arrangements if it should be decided to divert U.S. 3 to Cape Town (Australian C.N.B. 0945Z/8)

WAR DIARY.

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Hague reports that on 6/5, 6 German ships were discharging cargo at Delfzijl and 5 were loading for Heligoland and German ports.
(I.C.,0445/40)

North Atlantic.

RUDOLPH ALBRECHT. — Tanker, sailed from Ponta Delgada, Azores, at 2100/8. Stated to have bunker for six days only (at 8 knots). As ship left Tampico on 10/8/39, and proceeded to Azores, where she arrived 29/8, she is probably well loaded (I.C.,0445/40) (F.O.C.N.A., 0932/9)

Mediterranean.

MARITZA) INGO) — arrived at Sibenik 7/5, sailed 0500/8 for unknown destination (I.C.0443/40)

WAR DIARY

8.5.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

S/Ms. reported.

0650	Trawler RESCAPO reported suspect at P/S 55° 43' N. 1° 37' W. (ICO.444/40)
1105	Periscope observed 226° D.R.G.D.(67° N 10° E.)10 (CALCUTTA 1835/8) 66° 55'N., 9° 40' E., 231° Skjel Fiord 120'.
1837	By D/F unknown enemy unit 56° 20' N. 4° 20' E. Reliable fix (D.D.I.C.1902/8)
0540	Grimsby trawler reported she had just passed object like S/M P/S travelling West 10 miles West Longstone. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0655/8)
0820	P/S reported by A/C in Moray Firth, 58° 7' N, 1° 48' W., 016° Kinnaird Head, 27'. (I.C.0445/40).
2252	Approx. position, 54° 35' N. 2° 10' E., Dogger Bank (I.C.0445/40).

Estimated dispositions 1 returning home through middle North Sea. Indications between Stonehaven and the Longstone suggest possible U-Boat patrol. (F.O.C.N.P.1515/8).

S/Ms. Attacked.

0130	By BRESTOIS 58° 43' N. 3° 50' W. Contact now considered non sub. (BRESTOIS 0130/8)
0520	By a destroyer (seen by A/C to drop 1 depth charge), 57° 18' N., 1° 48' W., 52° Aberdeen 10'. (I.C.0445/40)

War Diary

9. 5. 1940.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Low Countries

Preparations have been made against invasion. GALATEA and ARETHUSA have arrived at Sheerness. BIRMINGHAM and 4 destroyers are at Rosyth and were joined by Captain D.5 in KELLY with KIMBERLEY and 2 other destroyers expected at Rosyth a.m./9 from the North. BIRMINGHAM and these 8 destroyers have been ordered to proceed to the Humber as soon as possible. There is a force of 6 destroyers in Dover.

KELLY torpedoed

At 7.30 p.m. BIRMINGHAM and the 8 destroyers on passage from Rosyth.to the Humber were sent to intercept a small German naval force reported in position north of the minefield. At 10.40 p.m. enemy M.T.Bs. were sighted, one of which torpedoed KELLY, and one rammed BULLDOG and sank, causing only superficial damage to BULLDOG. The latter has taken KELLY in tow for Rosyth; a strong air escort has been sent.

NARVIK AREA

British, French and Norwegian troops have crossed the road between Herjanga Fiord (to the north of the town of Narvik) and Gratangen Fiord. The Germans are entrenched at Elvenes, on Gratangen Fiord and at Osevand, midway between the two fiords, but the main body in this sector have fallen back on Elvergaarden, Bjervik and Molnedalen on the north shore of Herjangs Fiord. There is a landing ground at Elvergaarden.

A British landing party at Efjorden to the west of the town of Narvik has been in action and a number of casualties are reported. The position along the railway is unchanged and the Germans are still holding their position at the end of Beisfjord to the south-east of Narvik.

Convoy HK1 with fuel and stores, which has been waiting to westward of Narvik owing to congestion in the anchorages, arrived 2000/9 to start unloading.

Operation "Scissors" NUBIAN escorting SS. ROYAL SCOTSMAN with 300 troops was unable to enter Bodo owing to fog and stood off until VETERAN reports all troops disembarked at Mosjoen and that the French are embarking in ULSTER PRINCE. The French report that 2 German battalions are 25 miles to the South.

Tyne Closed

At 2300/8 a trawler reported a suspicious surface craft near 23 buoy off Newcastle, which may have been minelaying. The report was partially confirmed by W/T detection of a fast vessel some 20 miles further north. Southbound Convoy FS 66 which had left the Tyne was turned back, but a northbound convoy which was ahead of time entered safely. The Tyne is now closed, pending search.

War Diary 9. 5. 1940.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

The normal patrols (see 8/5) were flown.
Bad weather prevented night operations 8/9 May.
A Battle flight of Hudsons were despatched to locate and attack the convoy encountered by TAKU, but were unable to find it and returned at 1115 a.m.

Parallel track searches were carried out to find an enemy force of minelayers and destroyers. These were located and shadowed. (See BIRMINGHAM)

8 Skuas and 6 Blenheim fighters carried out a raid on Bergen in the evening. One ship, thought to be the BREMSE, is reported sunk by the Skuas. One Blenheim was lost.

31 Hampdens took off at 9 p.m. on special duty.

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy aircraft are obtaining from steep-dive bombing more success than at first appeared, so that the JU 87 is the real menace at the moment. (M.S.M.)

About 8 enemy aircraft were active off the English and Scottish coasts from Wick to Dover during daylight. One Dornier was shot down off Wick and 2 other enemy aircraft are reported down.

AURORA bombed

AURORA reports 7 R.M. killed and 7 wounded and one turret out of action, apparently as the result of a direct hit by a bomb.

German ships sunk

The skipper of the Norwegian fishing vessel PURAT, who has arrived at Lerwick reports that on 2/5 a vessel of 5,000 tons carrying German troops was torpedoed by a British submarine (? TRIDENT) 4 miles inside Marsten Light (Bergen area), and that on 5/5 a Norwegian submarine torpedoed a German store ship of 2,000 tons in Soter (entrance to Bergen).

It is reported that on 9 April the Norwegian destroyer STEGG captured the AFRIKA and CLARA HUGO STINNES, which were later sunk to prevent recapture by the Germans.

Operations

BIRMINGHAM's Force Thursday.

~~Belgium & Holland~~

(See also enemy intelligence)

SECRET

5. 1940.

BIRMINGHAM and our destroyers will be operating between 57°30'N and 56°20'N as far east as 6°0'E during night 9/10 May (RA(S) 1331/9)

Your 0302/9. Intend to sail at 0645/9 (BIRMINGHAM 0558/9)

Turn to northward

Turn to northward further instructions follow (Adty 0856/9 to KELLY, BIRMINGHAM)

Steer 080° 20 knots after passing May Island (VCNS 0900/9 to BIRMINGHAM, JANUS, HYPERION, HEREWARD, HAVOC)

Turn to northward further instructions follow (VCNS 0907/9 to KANDAHAR, HOSTILE)

Join BIRMINGHAM if practicable (VCNS 0920/9 to DS, KIMBERLEY, KANDAHAR, HOSTILE)

REPULSE and destroyers return to harbour forthwith (C in C HF 0951/9)

KELLY's free to join

KELLY, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY, HOSTILE join BIRMINGHAM. Position, course, speed. (C in C HF 1003/9)

Steer to meet enemy

BIRMINGHAM and destroyers in company steer to meet enemy force of 1 T.B., 4 minelayers, 3 destroyers.

FURY's free to join

FURY with MOHAWK, FORESIGHT, BULLDOG, GALLANT and HOTSPUR in position MBWY 2122 (57°21'N 2022'E)

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Narvik area.

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(CALCUTTA 2121/9).

Cruiser — to be available at Rosyth p.m./10 to convey Norwegian Foreign Minister etc. and Sir C. Dormer, etc. to Tromso. (D.O.D.(H) 2115/9).

Magnetic Mining — Enemy aircraft observed dropping parachute mines in over 100 fathoms. (F.O.I.C. Narvik 2130/9)

Narvik

Kirkenes — 1st C.S. ordered to proceed to Tromso and communicate with Consul for latest information and then proceed to Kirkenes to investigate Admty. message 1214/7. What escort have you? Did you intercept my 0635/9 to Admty? (F.O. Narvik 1229/9). Reply - I have no escort. Your 0635/9 not intercepted by me. (F.O.I.C. 2002/9)

14.11 POLISH TROOPS IN NORWAY.

PARIS, MAY 8: POLISH TROOPS HAVE LANDED IN NORWAY, IT WAS REVEALED TODAY IN A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE POLISH GOVERNMENT IN FRANCE.

THE COMMUNIQUE SAYS: "DETACHMENTS OF POLISH CARPATHIAN CHASSEURS REORGANISED IN FRANCE LANDED IN NORWAY VERY RECENTLY AND WILL FIGHT WITH BRITISH, FRENCH AND NORWEGIAN TROOPS AGAINST THE GERMAN INVADER. --REUTER

MANELA	Flying-boat base ship. Retention in Narvik area is only temporary. (M.S.M.)
GLORIOUS FURIOUS AND T.C.4.	In view of withdrawal of a flotilla to Harwich adequate escort cannot be provided for TC 4. vide your 2013/1/5 in addition to screens for GLORIOUS and FURIOUS and escorts for important convoys about to sail for Narvik area. Can escorts be provided from other sources. (C. in C. H. F. 1953/8 to Adty.)
PENELOPE	Not sailing tonight in view of weather report. (PENELOPE 2217/9). As PENELOPE not sailing am proceeding to meet N.S.2 about 1030 tomorrow. (CALCUTTA 2121/9).
Cruiser	to be available at Rosyth p.m./10 to convey Norwegian Foreign Minister etc. and Sir C. Dormer, etc. to Tromso. (D.O.D.(H) 2115/9).
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HOME COMMANDS
Operations,
BIRMINGHAM's Force
~~Rutgers & Hotham~~

9.5.40
Thursday.

240.

SECRET

at 1850 and after sinking 6 HTB's in that vicinity proceed high speed to join BIRMINGHAM. If nothing is sighted by 2230 forces are to search back to westward (C.in C. HF 1024/9 to FURY, BIRMINGHAM)

Despatch is necessary. FURY and destroyers raise steam for full speed and RV with the MOHAWK ff Smiths. Release screen as soon as possible (C.in C. HF 1038/9 to REPULSE, FURY, MOHAWK)

Your COS 3, expect to reach 58°17'N 1°4'W at 1200. Fuel remaining at 1200 KELLY 44% KIMBERLEY 32% (Capt D 5 1116/9)

BIRMINGHAM 1200 DKWS 1445. HYPERION, JANUS, HEREWARD, HAVOCK in company (BIRMINGHAM 1122/9)

A/c's to be sent

Battle fighter 3 Hudsons will join you 1330 (C.in C. Rosyth 1126/9 to Capt D 20)

KANDAHAR. HOSTILE with 50% fuel short when joining you at 1700 (KANDAHAR 1130/9 to C.S.18)

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Narvik

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1408 PULP IMPORTS FROM NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

YORK, MAY 8: PULP IMPORTING CIRCLES HERE ARE ACTIVELY DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF APPROACHING THE BRITISH AND GERMAN GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE RESUMPTION OF PULP SHIPMENTS FROM SWEDEN AND FINLAND, STATES THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

THOSE WHO BELIEVE SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED WITH BOTH BELLIGERENTS, THE PAPER ADDS, ARE OF OPINION THAT GERMANY APPARENTLY HAS NO INTEREST IN CURBING THE CHANCES OF SWEDISH AND FINNISH EXPORT TO AMERICA, WHILE ENGLAND WOULD AVOID ANY ACTION IN THIS MATTER WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED UNFRIENDLY TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES.

THE JOURNAL POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE DIFFICULTIES STANDING IN THE WAY OF THE RESUMPTION OF PULP IMPORTS FROM SWEDEN AND FINLAND ARE TREMENDOUS. --REUTER

B-1

PENELOPE — Not sailing tonight in view of weather report. (PENELOPE 2217/9). As PENELOPE not sailing am proceeding to meet H.S.2 about 1030 tomorrow. (CALCUTTA 2121/9).

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Magnetic Mining — Enemy aircraft observed dropping parachute mines in over 100 fathoms. (F.O.I.C. Narvik 2130/9)

Narvik

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9.5.40
Thursday.

BIRMINGHAM's Force
~~Belgium & Holland~~

SECRET

Capt. D 20 with 3 Destroyers and in daylight a battle flight of 3 Hudsons clear Ruchan Ness at 1200/9 to pass through 55° 8' N 4° 45' E at about midnight then returning to Humber. (DC 1131/9 to D 20. BIRMINGHAM, D 5)

Battle flight of 2 Hudsons will R.V. with you at 1400 and will be relieved at 1700 by battle flight of 3 Hudsons which will remain until dark (C.in C. Roy Ch 1316/9 to BIRMINGHAM)

KIMBERLEY short of fuel

~~Have~~ been ordered to return to base on account of fuel shortage. Expect to arrive 1900/9 (KIMBERLEY 1688/9 to C.in C. Roy Ch)

If nothing sighted by 0400/10 BIRMINGHAM Capt D 5 and accompanying destroyers proceed to Humber. FURY, FORESIGHT proceed to Roy Ch. HOTSPUR, GALLANT, BULLDOG to Scapa (C.in C. HF 2228/9)

Enemy sighted

2 enemy war motor boats bearing 030 distance 1 mile course 115 position MB 04 46 (KANDAHAR 2240/9)

One enemy war motor boat bearing 000° distance 5 miles. Approx. course 150° position 133 MBND 245° (BIRMINGHAM 2256/9)

Magnetic Mining — Enemy aircraft observed dropping parachute mines in over 100 fathoms. (F.O.I.C. Narvik 2130/9)

Narvik

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20.51 FRENCH WAR COMMUNIQUE

PARIS, MAY 8.: TONIGHT'S FRENCH WAR COMMUNIQUE STATES:

"IN THE REGION EAST OF THE NIED THE ENEMY ATTEMPTED A RAID WHICH WAS REPULSED BY THE FIRE OF THE OUT-POST ATTACKED, OF THE ARTILLERY AND OF THE SUPPORT PARTY WHICH AT ONCE WENT INTO ACTION." --REUTER

M-2

20.52 U.S. EXPORT SUBSIDY PROGRAMME FOR CORN

WASHINGTON, MAY 8.: OFFICIALS OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT [illegible] SAID TODAY THAT THEY WERE GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE [illegible]

T.C.4. convoys about to sail for Narvik area. Can escorts be provided from other sources. (C. in C. H. F. 1953/8 to Adty.)

PENELOPE Not sailing tonight in view of weather report. (PENELOPE 2217/9). As PENELOPE not sailing am proceeding to meet N.S.2 about 1030 tomorrow. (CALCUTTA 2121/9).

Cruiser to be available at Rosyth p.m./10 to convey Norwegian Foreign Minister etc. and Sir C. Dormer, etc. to Tromso. (D.O.D.(H) 2115/9).

Magnetic Mining Enemy aircraft observed dropping parachute mines in over 100 fathoms. (F.O.I.C. Narvik 2130/9)

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War Diary

9. 5. 1940.

HOME COMMANDS

HOME COMMANDS
Operations

9. 5. 40
Thursday.

~~Belgium & Holland~~

SECRET

BIRMINGHAM's Force.

KELLY torpedoed

KELLY torpedoed 56°48' N 5°09'E am
taking her in tow (BULLDOG 2330/9)

Require immediate assistance 56°48' N
5°33'E (BULLDOG 2320/9)

On completion of tonight's operations
BIRMINGHAM and destroyers detailed
should proceed to Humber (FCNS 2321/9)

With adequate air and surface escort
KELLY can be saved. BULLDOG has her
in tow 56°47' N 5°9'E (? 2347/9 to Adty)

Dornier shot down

Dornier flying boat shot down but not
sunk in DKW 3376 1930/9 (C in C Rosyth
2358/9 to BIRMINGHAM)

~~Battle flight 3 Hudsons leave~~

Narvik

Kirkenes

1st C.S. ordered to proceed to Tromso and communicate with Consul for latest information and then proceed to Kirkenes to investigate Admty. message 1214/7. What escort have you? Did you intercept my 0635/9 to Admty? (F.O. Narvik 1229/9). Reply - I have no escort. Your 0635/9 not intercepted by me. (F.O.I.C. 2002/9)

HOME COMMANDS

INAUGURATION OF AN EXPORT SUBSIDY PROGRAMME FOR CORN AND THAT A FINAL DECISION WILL BE MADE IN TWO OR THREE DAYS TIME.

THEY REFUSED TO REVEAL THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED, BUT IT IS INDICATED THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE NETHERLANDS AND CANADA WILL PROBABLY BE THE DESTINATIONS IF THE SUBSIDY IS MADE EFFECTIVE.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT TWO LEADING CORN EXPORT FIRMS HAVE ADVANCED PLANS FOR THE SHIPMENT UNDER THE SUBSIDY OF TWENTY TO THIRTY MILLION BUSHELS. --REUTER

M-2

[illegible] (PENELOPE 2217/9). As PENELOPE not sailing am proceeding to meet N.S.2 about 1030 tomorrow. (CALCUTTA 2121/9).

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik

Floating pier — Is to be shipped to Narvik in EMPIRE ABILITY (M.S.M.). To be made ready for shipment on 13/5 (D. of L.D. 0034/9)

A.A. Guns — A further 24 A.A. guns are to be consigned to Narvik in the next convoy which leaves 11/5. One battery was in the ship (BALEAC) damaged on passage through the Minch and now at Stornoway (M.SM.)

GLORIOUS — Embarking Walrus today and Hurricanes 10/5, for Narvik area.

FURIOUS — to embark Gladiators 10/5 for Narvik area.

MANELA — Flying-boat base ship. Retention in Narvik area is only temporary. (M.S.M.)

GLORIOUS
FURIOUS AND
T.C.4. — In view of withdrawal of a flotilla to Harwich adequate escort cannot be provided for TC 4. vide your 2013/1/5 in addition to screens for GLORIOUS and FURIOUS and escorts for important convoys about to sail for Narvik area. Can escorts be provided from other sources. (C. in C. H. F. 1953/8 to Adty.)

PENELOPE — Not sailing tonight in view of weather report. (PENELOPE 2217/9). As PENELOPE not sailing am proceeding to meet N.S.2 about 1030 tomorrow. (CALCUTTA 2121/9).

Cruiser — to be available at Rosyth p.m./10 to convey Norwegian Foreign Minister etc. and Sir C. Dormer, etc. to Tromso. (D.O.D.(H) 2115/9).

Magnetic Mining — Enemy aircraft observed dropping parachute mines in over 100 fathoms. (F.O.I.C. Narvik 2130/9)

Narvik

Kirkenes — 1st C.S. ordered to proceed to Tromso and communicate with Consul for latest information and then proceed to Kirkenes to investigate Admty. message 1214/7. What escort have you? Did you intercept my 0635/9 to Admty? (F.O. Narvik 1229/9). Reply - I have no escort. Your 0635/9 not intercepted by me. (F.O.I.C. 2002/9)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik (Contd.)

Balloon Barrage — Mobile barrage of 9 waterborne sites is available. Composition 12 specially equipped trawlers with R.A.F. personnel. Additionally, second echelon of R.A.F. personnel and equipment comprising 50 all ranks and 540 hydrogen tubes. Barrage could be maintained for maximum of 7 days, and with tubes with second echelon for further 18 days. Have you a use for 9 balloons now? Can you receive and accommodate both trawlers and second echelon? (Air Min. to F.O. Narvik, 1640/9) Orders to Balloon Command. (Air Ministry 1140/9)

Signal Personnel — Your 1907/5. Number of communication personnel requested cannot be provided. Certain additional ratings will be sent when available. War Office Signals state there is large number of Army signal personnel already in Narvik area. Army Chief Signal Officer, Narvik Area, is taking passage in CHOBRY. (D.S.D. 1809/9, to F.O., Narvik.)

Operation BISHOP — Advance H.Q. approx. 7 officers and 74 other ranks, to arrive Glasgow 0900/13 for embarkation in SOBIESKI (D.N.A.D. 1913/9)

Efjorden Landing Casualties. — S.O. 12th A.S.S.F, reports My 2125/2. Following is position in Efjorden. My landing party fired on by Germans ashore. Have dead and wounded on board. Am closing destroyer. T.O.O. 0015/9. (VINDICTIVE, 0100/9)

GLORIOUS FURIOUS — Desirable they should sail in company earliest possible date to avoid providing two escorts. (D.N.A.D. 1342/9)

A/C Squadrons. — To Rupert Force (for Group Captain Moore on arrival). You should see my X.251 of 8/5. From reports of destruction of Gladiators at Lake Lejeskog, arrival of Gladiators and later Hurricanes at Bardu Foss or Skaanland likely to be opposed by enemy bombing. In consequence arrangements made with Admiralty for youto get in touch with Captains FURIOUS and GLORIOUS to enable you to give details regarding order in which you wish sections of flights of 263 and later 46 Sqdn. to land on aerodrome and to issue instructions to fighters flying off to carry out necessary defensive patrol over aerodrome during arrival of remainder of squadron and while refuelling (Air Ministry 1310/9)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Narvik (Cont.)

The German High Command contemplates abandoning Narvik to the Allies, according to the Berlin correspondent of the Algemeen Handelsblad. In very well informed circles in Berlin, he says, Narvik is no longer regarded as the centre of great strategic importance. The German High Command is believed to hold the view that Narvik will only remain of value so long as the Allies continue to send or station ships there, which can be attacked by the German Air Force.
(Reuter, Amsterdam, 1750/9)

Bodo-Mosjoen-Mo.

Gubbins Trawler Flotilla. — Admty. 0027/7. Arrangements being made for a flotilla of about 10 trawlers and drifters to be provided for maintenance and transport of independent companies operating in Northern Norway, to be known as Gubbins Flotilla. C.O. of Flotilla Lt. Comdr. W.R. Fell, will arrive Bodo area with 6 or 8 vessels about 18/5. Lt. Comdr. H.E.H. Nicholls, 2nd in command of Flotilla will proceed Bodo in ROYAL ULSTERMAN arriving about 13/5. In addition to maintenance of companies, intended that some of these vessels should be at disposal of Col. Gubbins for operational purposes. (V.C.N.S. to F.O. Narvik 0046/9)

VETERAN report. — Your 2351/8. French report 2 German battalions 25 miles south. All troops disembarked at Mosjoen French embarking in ULSTER PRINCE. Proceeding Scapa. Col. Gubbins interviewed Norwegian General to make liaison. Norwegian troops apparently good but unenthusiastically led. (VETERAN 0330/9) to F.O. Narvik).

Gubbins Flotilla. — Details of organisation and supplies. (D. of P. to C. in C. Rosyth 1801/9)

Aerodromes at Bodo. at Bardu - Foss — Air Ministry insist it cannot be operated without RD/F. The aerodrome has not great possibilities. 4 Bofors guns have been mounted. (Lt. Col Hornby's quoted in M.S.M.)

Iceland (Operation Fork)

A/S search. — Two A/S Trawlers are to carry out a search on the coast of Iceland, after the escort for GUARDIAN has been provided for (M.S.M).

9.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Cont.)

GUARDIAN — On completion of Operation Fork, intended to sail GUARDIAN to lay indicator nets at Kvalfiord. Two A/S Trawlers will be sailed later for patrol of nets (V.C.N.S. 1536/9)

Infantry Brigade Operation ALABASTER. — Decided that Force Fork will be relieved by an infantry brigade as soon as possible. Anticipated FRANCONIA and LANCASTRIA with 3,500 troops and 30 days' supplies will be ready to leave Clyde p.m. 13/5. This operation will be known as ALABASTER (V.C.N.S. 1713/9)

Shitzbergen.

At Staff Meeting 1000/9, D. of P. was directed to collaborate with War Office in examining proposed occupation of Spitzbergen.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

SECRET

9.5.1940
Thursday.

Convoys - Norway.

CLYDEBANK — One troop of 3 light tanks sailed in CLYDEBANK from Clyde. To be transhipped at Narvik into suitable vessels and sent to Harstad for employment with Independent Companies. (BCNS & Do. Narvik, to War Office for Robert 2

~~CinC~~ ~~A.C.O.S. is requested to sail~~ MONARCH OF BERMUDA to sail
EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, VILLE D'ALGER and Tanker LOT for Clyde
as soon as ~~they are~~ ready escorted by BRESTOIS, BOULONNAIS
and one British Destroyer
(C-in-C HF 1201/9)

NS 2. — Six hours ahead of time quoted (C-in-C HF's 1542/6).
MESTA and WOLVERINE 100 miles astern. (JACKAL, 1630/9)

NS 3. — To be sailed for Narvik (Admty 1602/9, 1609/9). Ra(D) to provide destroyer escorts (C-in-C HF 1945/9)

EMPIRE ABILITY — Required at Southampton, orders, then to proceed Narvik
(D.O.D. 2123/9, 0002/10)

Harstad.

(a) Night of 8th/9th. — Wind. W. moderate to fresh, strong locally.
Weather. Occasional drizzle or rain.
Visibility. Moderate to good.

(b) Night of 9th/10th. — Wind. Light and variable.
Weather. Fine to cloudy. Coastal haze or fog.
Visibility. Moderate but poor in fog.

20.40 WALL STREET CLOSE.

NEW YORK, MAR 4: BUYERS WERE TIMID AND PRIVE MOVEMENTS VERY NARROW BUT THE MARKET CLOSED WITH A STEADY TENDENCY, MOST STOCKS BEING FRACTIONALLY HIGHER.

648 ISSUES WERE DEALT IN TODAY, 276 SHOWING GAINS AND 168 LOSSES. 204 ISSUES WERE UNCHANGED.

TODAY'S TURNOVER AMOUNTED TO 460,000 SHARES.

AT 30. DOW JONES' RAIL INDEX FINISHE

INDUSTRIAL AT 146.43 AND THE UTILITY INDEX AT 24.02.

B-2 --REUTER

SECRET

HOME COMMANDSç
Operations
Convoys - Norway

9.5.1940

French. Sailed DJEUNE, PRESIDENT DOUMER, FLANDRE, PROVIDENCE, escorted by TARTU, CHEVALIER PAUL, for Brest. 9 officers 60 ratings from BISON on board PRESIDENT DOUMER. (FçOçIçC., Greenock, 1405/9)

BELFORT To sail for Scapa soon as ready, to complete with fuel and take orders from Admiral, MONTCALM, before proceeding to Narvik area. F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1301/9)

REDCAR
ACRITY Intend sailing, escorted by HERO and FOXHOUND for Narvik area leaving Leith Roads 0800/12. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1655/9)

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U12005 SEARCH FAILS TO LOCATE AIR LINER.

NEW DELHI, MCH 2: THE IMPERIAL AIRWAYS AND R.A.F. MACHINES SEARCHING FOR THE MISSING AIR LINER HANNIBAL HAVE FAILED TO LOCATE THE MACHINE DESPITE A SEARCH OVER A WIDE AREA.

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.
Allied Submarines.

9.5.1940
Thursday.

TAKU — Attacked 2 transports escorted by 2 destroyers in position MORU at 1730. Have been depth charged for 5 hours. Are retiring to westward to examine damage. 10 torpedoes fired, possibly 3 hits. (TAKU 0235/9).

Positions — 0600/10 (DC 2125/9, VA(S)1808/9)

Ordered — STURGEON, SNAPPER, CALYPSO (VA(S)164)/9)
ACHILLE, CASABIANCA (RA(S)1646/9, 1344/9, 0023/9)
SEVERN (RA(S)1532/9)
SEVERN, ORZEL (1402/9)
SHARK, AMAZONE, DORIS (RA(S)1322/9)

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"THE FASCIST GOVERNMENT, IN MAKING THIS NEW PROTEST, DESIRES TO SET FORTH IMMEDIATELY THE FACTS AND DATE OF THE SITUATION IN ORDER TO SHOW THE RELATIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY LATER DEVELOPMENTS ARISING OUT OF IT." --REUTER

M-2

KINT11 RUSSIA DENIES FINN ALLEGATIONS

MOSCOW, MAR 4.: AN ANGRY DENIAL OF THE ALLEGATIONS OF RUSSIAN ATROCITIES CONTAINED IN THE RECENTLY-PUBLISHED NOTE OF THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT IS GIVEN IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY BY THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE LENINGRAD MILITARY AREA.

"ALL THESE SLANDEROUS FABRICATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST THE RED ARMY CANNOT POSTPONE THE APPROACHING END OF THE ADVENTURE OF THE FINNISH RULERS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION," THE STATEMENT DECLARES.

M-2 --REUTER

Boston.

(a) Night of 4th & 5th. Wind. W. moderate to fresh, strong locally. Weather. Occasional drizzle or rain. Visibility. Moderate to good.

(b) Night of 5th & 6th. Wind. Light and variable. Weather. Fine to cloudy, coastal haze or fog. Visibility. Moderate but poor in fog.

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS. 9. 5. 1940.

Norwegian Intelligence.

Norwegian General reports he has denuded East Finmark of troops for Narvik operations, and he now has information that German marines have reached Murmansk by railway. Anxious that Murmansk be kept unde r observation and that Allies be ready to reinforce East Finmark. (FçO., Narvik, 0635/9)

TROLL, B.6, etc. Cancel my 1405/8/5. Sub-Lieut. Bernt sen, Royal Norwegian Navy, at present in Norwegian s.s. AKABAHRA at Kirkwall reports Norwegian destroyer TROLL, torpedo boat SNOGG, and submarine B.6 were likely to be abandoned. At 2200/5, these vessels were moored with sterns to the shore in 61.36' N., 5.04' E., ¾-mile east of Floro. GOR and VALE, very old small vessels used for minelaying, were anchored in small bay north of Kjoelkenoes Village on Midtgulen, 61.44' N., 5.10' E. Norwegian BERA fully loaded with carbide lying at southern of Sorgulen, 61.42½' N., 5.07' E. (C.C.S.O., Kirkwall, 2203/9)

CONTROL MEASURES, IS ONLY A FRACTION OF ITS PRE-WAR VOLUME.

ITALY HAS IN THE PAST IMPORTED BETWEEN 3,000,000 AND 4,000,000 TONS OF GERMAN COAL A YEAR VIA ROTTERDAM. SHE WILL, IT IS THOUGHT IN HOLLAND, HARDLY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN SUCH AN ADDITIONAL QUANTITY BY RAIL FROM THE REICH. FREIGHT RATES WOULD TOTAL A PROHIBITIVE SUM, AND IN ANY CASE THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH TRUCKS AVAILABLE. --REUTER

B-2

14.55 ADD 10.53 - NO FURTHER NEWS OF THE SOUTHGATE

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, MAR 2: FOUR UNITED STATES AEROPLANES HAVE BEEN SENT OUT FROM HERE TO SEARCH FOR THE SOUTHGATE. --REUTER

B-2

9.5.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

AURORA.

KELLY. Torpedoed see Belgium and Holland.

SEAL. No further information since she was seen by Swedish patrol vessel about 1200/5 to west of Gothenburg Archipelago afloat and in tow of 2 German naval trawlers heading S.W. (N.A. Stockholm 2004/9).

Unknown Schooner. Sinking 40°0'N, 33°27'W. EXAMINER standing by (Valentia Radio 0013/9).

9.5.1940.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

ATHENE — Norwegian tanker, now at Grangemouth, being taken over by Norwegian Mission with present cargo intact. Directions. (D.T.D.1654/9)

Ocean Convoys. — Positions (D.C. 2119/9) (C. in C. W.A. 1507/9)

Paravanes. — Merchant ships warned that owing to presence of underwater obstructions paravanes are not to be used when proceeding between the Downs and Dungeness. (D.T.D. 1739/9).

Miscellaneous.

Norwegian Vessels Building. — Requesting instructions regarding Norwegian destroyer DRAUG and Norwegian M.T.B's building at Vosper. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1817/9).

Risk to D.C's from Splinters. — Your 1815/7, recommendation of action to be taken when ships subject to air attack (PELICAN). A general signal and C.A.F.O. modifying the orders for readiness of depth charges is being issued but T.N.T. charges can be detonated by high velocity splinters even when not primed. To separate charges on deck sufficiently to avoid counter-mining is impracticable in ships carrying a large number of depth charges. (D.A/S.W. to C. in C. Nore, 1141/9).

HAGA sunk. — Swedish (1296 tons) has been sunk probably through striking a mine. Four of the crew have been killed and the remainder picked up by a German submarine (Press).

Weather.

North Sea.

(a) North of 56° N.
Wind. W, Moderate to fresh, strong locally.
Weather. Occasional drizzle or rain.
Visibility. Moderate to good.

(b) South of 56° N.
Wind. Light and variable.
Weather. Fine to cloudy, Coastal haze or fog.
Visibility. Moderate but poor in fog.

HOME COMMANDS (Continued).

Weather (Continued).

Horns Reef.	Wind. N.N.E., light. Weather. Fine. Visibility. Moderate in haze.
Channel.	Wind. N.N.E., light to moderate. Weather. Variable sky. Coastal haze. Visibility. Moderate in haze; good otherwise.
W. Approaches.	Wind. N.E., light. Weather. Fine. Visibility. Good.
Coast of Norway.	Wind. S. to S.W. fresh or strong, gale locally. Weather. Overcast with rain and local fog. Visibility. Moderate or poort.

WAR DIARY.

SECRET.

9.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

British Air Activity.

Reconnaissance My 1800/8. Reconnaissance by Skuas will not take place. Necessary information will be obtained from 18 Group reconnaissance aircraft. (A.C.O.S.0228/9)
Special weather reconnaissance (Donibristle 0730/9).

Stavanger Aerodrome. Reconnaissance flight on night 8/9 May observed a number of bomb craters which appeared to have been filled in, and a large heap of debris at intersection of the runways. Accurate A.A. fire up to a height of 4000 ft. was encountered. (H.Q.B.C.)

Bergen Attack. My 1105/9. 8 Skuas, 806 Sqdn., escorted by 6 Blenheims 254 Sqdn., left Hatston 1630 to carry out bombing attack on objectives at Bergen. (A.C.O.S.1700/9) Report of escort 1 Blenheim lost (Hatston,2152/9)
Result of attack, three hits on warship thought to be BREMSE, very little H.A. fire or activity seen, small depot ship, 4 M.T.B's and 2 destroyers in Fiord. One Blenheim down in Bergen. One Skua crashed on landing, crew unhurt. One Skua at Sumburgh with engine trouble. Low clouds made it difficult to select targets. Petrol dump machine-gunned, result not known. (Hatston, 2235/9)

Bombing Restrictions. for 10/5 (V.A.(S) 1226/9, 1644/9)

GLORIOUS a/c's Further X.361, 8/5, it has now been decided that two reserve Hurricanes, making 18, in all, are to be embarked in GLORIOUS. (Air. Min., 1125/9, to Fighter Command.)

Battle Flight Search Battle Flight to proceed forthwith to M B R U 0000 and carry out square search to east of this position. If, clouds permit, any force located may be attacked but only after report has been made. Likely that enemy aircraft will be escorting the convoy and reccon. should only be carried out if clouds afford cover. (Donibristle, 0530/9)

9.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Air (Contd.)

Enemy Air Activity.

2 unidentified aircraft reported in Ostend area at 0510/9. Air attack imminent. (Portsmouth 0551/9)

S.S. ALKAID. (Dutch) was bombed 2100/9 off the Maas Lt. V (I.C.0446/40)

Activity by enemy a/c's was more marked than for some days past. Throughout the day from an early hour there were reports of enemy a/c's at different points off the S. and S.E. coasts. Most of these flights appear to have been for reconnaissance, as no attacks on shipping took place. 2 D.O.18 were shot down by our a/c's about 170 miles E. of Fifeness, and another is understood to have been shot down off Wick.

Enemy a/c's were active off the Dutch coast at dusk and after dark.

Dive Bombing. At Staff meeting 1000/9, Captain Brind reported enemy aircraft were obtaining from steep dive bombing more success than at first appeared so that the Junkers 87 was the real menace at the moment. He suggested that close attention should be paid to the aerodromes from which aircraft of this type are operating.

Mining.

NARWHAL Proceeding to lay mines in vicinity of XKRU 58 53 tomorrow, Thursday. (R.A.(S) 0006/9) orders (R.A.(S)1319/9) R.D.10 cancelled R.A.(S) to NARWHAL 0003/9)

3 unexplained explosions. observed 2318/8 3 heavy explosions approx. C.P.T.S. 5050 (AMAZONE 0103/9)

EXPRESS, ESK, INTREPID proceeding from Buchan Ness are laying mines close eastward of Zone A 2 tonight (R.A.(S) 1449/9)

HOME COMMANDS (Contd)

Mining. (Contd.) 9.5.40. Thursday.

Operation B.S.J.	Propose leaving Immingham 0930/11 (PRINCESS VICTORIA) (The operation was cancelled see
Tyne	Mine in Tyne entrance not yet located (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2136/9)
Magnetic Mines	Suspected in region of Wandelaar lightship following accident to Belgian fishing vessel. (Reuter, Ostend, 2145/9)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unidentified unit	Admiralty 0035/9, see U. Boat Campaign
M.T.B's	Enemy high speed motor boats may be in your vicinity (C. in C. Rosyth 0020/9 to EGRET, WHITLEY) Small enemy vessel transmitting, probably W. of 4° E (D.D.I.C. 2114/9). Frequent enemy signals in approx. 56° 30' N 3°45' E (D.D.I.C.2227/9)
3 destroyers (see BIRMINGHAM'S Force)	bearing 130° distance 6 miles 100° DKWY3132 (A.L.1845/9) Enemy's course our speed 100° 15 knots 3 destroyers (A/C1910/9) A/C reports 3 destroyers 130° 6miles DKWY 3132 course 100° at 1845 (C. in C. Rosyth 1934/9 to BIRMINGHAM) (A/C220 Sqdn., 1845/9)
4 Minelayers 3 destroyers 1 T.B.	bearing 180° 6 miles. Position 080 MBND 1830 (A/C1940/9) Am still in touch with enemy. No change in situation (A/C2005/9)

WAR DIARY. FOREIGN STATIONS. 9.5.40. Thursday.

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

Falklands. At Staff Meeting 1000/9, D.N.A.D. in conjunction with Air Ministry was asked to investigate the supply of a reconnaissance aircraft for use in Falkland Islands.

MEDITERRANEAN.

Shipping Clearances. Your 1302/8, re not giving clearances to neutral ships bound for Dutch and Belgian ports. Understand this message cancels your 1900/16/2 to C.in C. Med., allowing ships to pass through patrols. (C.C.S.O. Malta 1156/9)

Your 1156/9. No. My 1190/16/2 only refers to waiving guarantees to call. These ships still have to be examined and clearances must therefore only be given as far as Weymouth. (D.E.W.D.1916/9).

Positions. WARSPITE, WATERHEN, VOYAGER, VENDETTA in 34. N., 21. E., for Alexandria. (D.C. 0811/9).

Sabotage Report. Susak report German agent offered Master Yugoslavia ship £10,000 to explode bombs in cement cargo in Suez Canal. (S.O.I., Malta, 1435/9).

Turkish General Staff informed Military Attache to-day that Germans through Italians have bribed captains of one Yugoslav and one Greek ship to sink themselves in Suez Canal. Turks state source of information good. (N.A., Angora, 1011/9).

Constanza Restrictions. Commencing 8/5, Constanza Port closed to shipping between 1930 hours and 0500 hours and coloured lighthouses marking entrance will be extinguished. (Constanza, via Radio France, 2040/9)

Destroyers. D.O.D.(F) at Staff Meeting 1000/9 said that 7000 troops would have to be embarked from France, but escorts could not be provided until WARSPITE reached Alexandria. The detaching of destroyers for escort duty would in turn immobilise the battleships.

EAST INDIES.

Shipping. Vessels diverted Aden for orders (C. in C. E.I., 1251/9)

Air Situation. Your 0816/6. Agree that minelayers and submarines present biggest potential threats to shipping in present circumstances. No evidence, however, that these threats exist in Indian Ocean at present. In war with Italy, Red Sea is our most vulnerable point. We are very short of aircraft in Egypt, and on broad grounds it is considered that available air resources can be better employed in Egypt than in India if we are at war with Italy. For this reason, Nos.11 and 39 Squadrons have been ordered to Aden and Egypt respectively. Not intended to move 60 Sqdn. from India, but reserves of aircraft now in India must be regarded as primarily available to reinforce Egypt. In order to conserve these reserves Air Ministry have suggested limiting activities of 60 Sqdn. for the present. Admiralty agree. If raider or submarine activity spreads to Indian Ocean, 60 Sqdn. will be available as at present, and question of allocating reserves to it will be considered in light of situation at the time. 203 Sqdn., Aden, now being re-equipped with long-nosed Blenheim aircraft. This together with redistribution referred to above should improve your position as regards Red Sea. (D.O.D.(F), 1328/9).

AMERICA & WEST INDIES.

ST. BLAZEY. Your 1130/2 and 1644/8. Approved to retain ST. BLAZEY for target-towing and general duties until SANDBOY practically repaired. (Hd. of M. 1322/9 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Whale Ships. LANCING and M.T.NIELSEN ALONSO to be advised to ignore all instructions sent them from Norway. (D.T.D.1444/9, to C.in C. A.W.I.)

IDA KNUDSEN. Norwegian tanker, to proceed to Bermuda, covered for marine and war risks by British Govt. (D.of S.T., 2236/9 to C.O.A.C.)

CHINA.

Japanese Naval Visits.

Representing reaction to refusal for Japanese Training Sqdn. to visit British ports on grounds of inability to entertain them. Japanese cite case of Argentine Training Sqdn. visiting Capetown and Colombo. Suggests that rule should be made either that no neutral naval forces enter British Naval ports in time of war, or (if it is not desired that Japanese should even visit Rangoon, Calcutta) that visit of Argentine Training Sqdn. should be cancelled. (Mr. Gaigie, Hong Kong, No. T.O.O/9).

AUSTRALIA.

Troops.

Berth sailings arranged: STRATHEDEN leaving Sydney 22/5, 99 for Egypt, 731 for Marseilles. LARGS BAY leaving Sydney 28/5, 32 for Egypt, 515 for Marseilles. Cover is being provided focal point Australian Station. Request adequate cover be provided on other stations (Australian C.N.B.0432 Z/9).

WAR DIARY. FOREIGN STATIONS. 9.5.40 Thursday.

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Representing reaction to refusal for Japanese Training Sqdn. to visit British ports on grounds of inability to entertain them. Japanese cite case of Argentine Training Sqdn. visiting Capetown and Colombo. Suggests that rule should be made either that no neutral naval forces enter British Naval ports in time of war, or (if it is not desired that Japanese should even visit Rangoon, Calcutta) that visit of Argentine Training Sqdn. should be cancelled. (Mr. Gaigie, Hong Kong, No. T.O.O/9).

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. Thursday.

Home Commands.

AFRIKA sunk CLARA HUGO STINNES sunk.	It is reported that on 9/4 the Norwegian destroyer STEGG captured AFRIKA, (6503 tons) and CLARA HUGO STINNES (5295 tons) and took them to Ulvik on Hardanger Fjord where they were sunk later in order to prevent the Germans from recapturing them. The AFRIKA, which had a cargo of 2000 tons of iron ore, was flying the Dutch flag and the CLARA HUGO STINNES, Danish colours. (N.O./C. Lerwick 1552/9)
STORE SHIP TORPEDOED.	It is also reported that on May 5 a Norwegian submarine torpedoed a German store ship of about 2,000 tons near Sund in Soter, at the entrance to Bergen.
CAPRI KURLAND }	Were ordered by W/T 9/5 to load at Dantzig. (I.C.O.446/40)
SAAR	Reported she was arriving at Landsort 0500/9 (I.C.O.446/40)
KONIGSBERG	Was ordered at 0921/9 to proceed to Landsort (I.C.O.446/40).
REGINA	Reported she would arrive Riga 0500/9 (I.C.O.446/40).
ROBERT LEY	(Reported sunk in Skagerrak night 12/13 April). Press reports that Berlin has denied she was sunk.

North Atlantic.

RUDOLF ALBRECHT	Tanker, left Ponta Delgada, Azores, 2100/8. Description. (D.D.I.C.1332/9).

Mediterranean.

MARITZA	Arrived Sibetiens 6/5 to load 5,000 tons bauxite for Trieste. (N.A. Belgrade, 1415/9)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Mediterranean (continued)

INGO	Expected Brnat 9/5 (N.A. Belgrade,1415/9)
ERNEST GUNTHNER	Small German vessel at Constanza was found to have secret W/T transmitter, existence of which had been denied. Vessel has been prohibited from sailing for Varna (I.C.O.446/40).
ITHAKA	(1773 tons) is reported as being strengthened in dock at Constanza for offensive and defensive armament. She is the third German vessel to have had "repairs" effected there since the war (I.C.O.446/40).

WAR DIARY

9.5.40
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/Ms. Reported.

2252/8 By D/F, unidentified enemy unit 54° 35' N. 2° 10' E., unreliable fix, probable U-boat. (D.D.I.C.0035/9). Two corvettes to be sent to investigate and see if fishing trawlers are intact. (C. inC. Nore,0204/9 to F.O.I.C. Humber)

1850 By A/C 56° 35' N. 2° 30' E. (I.C.O.446/40)

Estimated dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1259/9).

War Diary

10.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy.

Air Ministry Orders.

Holland and Belgium were invaded by Germany early this morning. All operational commands should be prepared in all respects to act in accordance with situation and prearranged plans and to take offensive action. Full security measures against possibility of air attack should be taken by all commands. (Air Min.0717/10).

Germany has invaded Holland (D.C.0557/10, Admty General message 111A).

Admty letter NL/TD 2014/40. Make all preparations. (V.C.N.S.1007/10 to Cs in C and F.O's home commands).

Threatened Attack on Thames.

Summary of an anonymous letter by an alleged advance German agent threatening enemy bomber attack on Thames Estuary from Southend Pier to Leigh with parachute troops. (D.N.I. 1833/10). This seems not improbable, for following reasons:

(a) Our warships' defence is very weak.

(b) 2100 is 1 hour before low water on Maplin Sands.

(c) 2100 is good hour to attack Thames because unlighted channels would prevent naval reinforcements from coming till daylight. (C.in C.Nore, 1940/10).

Information from Norway shows that German parachute troops when descending hold their arms above their heads as if surrendering, the parachutists, however, holds a grenade in each hand. These are thrown at anyone attempting to obstruct the landing. To counter this strategem parachutists if they exceed six in number are to be treated as hostile and if possible shot in the air. The largest crew carried in any British bomber is six persons. (Air Ministry 2015/10 to all Commands).

Precautions to be taken at aerodromes (Air Min.1415/10).

War Diary

10.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

YORK — Raise steam and proceed as soon as ready with all convenient despatch to Rosyth (C.in C. H.F.1040/10, 1116/10).

Destroyers. — My present intention to send all available destroyers of 1st, 5th and 7th Flotillas to join Nore Command as soon as they can be released from their present duties. R.A.D., H.F. to arrange accordingly. Request C.in C., Nore, to release destroyers of 2nd, 4th and 8th Flotillas now under his orders as reliefs join. (C.in C. H.F., 1910/10).
See also Narvik.

In order to provide additional forces for southern part of North Sea at what is likely to be critical time request you will consider reducing ARK ROYAL screen by two, detaching ZULU and CALCUTTA from PENELOPE as soon as PENELOPE is well clear of land, and ordering SOMALI, ESCORT and WOLVERINE to return to Scapa immediately on arrival leaving transports to return unescorted. Request inform me how many destroyers you can release to south by this or other means. (1st S.L.2311/10).

Submarines — Positions 0600/11 (V.A.S.1909/10) (D.C.2312/10).

Rosyth — Movements for tonight. (C.in C. Rosyth 2134/10).

M.T.B's — Cancel my 0914/10 (Movements of M.T.B's escorted by a corvette) (F.O. Harwich 1832/10).

Operations.

Low Countries.

(C.S.2 and BIRMINGHAM, ARETHUSA, GALATEA).

Holland invaded.

KELLY orders to BIRMINGHAM. — Leave 2 destroyers in addition to BULLDOG with KELLY. Proceed with remainder of your force towards Terschelling at maximum speed (D.Q.D.(H) 0616/10 to BIRMINGHAM).

KELLY Air protection. — Battle flight 3 Hudsons lesveaLeuchars 0230 (C.in C. Rosyth 0036/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).

KIMBERLEY Orders. — On completion of fuelling proceed to Humber with moderate despatch (C.in C. Rosyth 0045/10 to KIMBERLEY).

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Law Confirms

10.5.40.
Friday

~~(Flushing, Ostend, Zeebrugge, Dunkerque)~~ Operation X D (demolition parties)
Prepare to carry out Operation X D (OOS 0606/10 to C in C Nore)
Forces for Operation X D are assembling. Re detachments should arrive Dover not later than 1000 (OOS 0607/10 to War Office)
By 0606/10 ships are detailed as follows :-
Party A WHITSHED, Party B WILD SWAN,
Party C, VERITY,
Party D BRILLIANT
(Party 0637/10 to V A Dover)

SECRET

By 0606/10. Detachments are to be embarked
(OOS 0807/10 to V A Dover)
By 06.06/10, Forces are to be sailed for the inter
(OOS (H) 1120/10 to V A Dover)

Your enquiry re Flushing. Oostgat clear, but Wielingen Channel mined by Dutch up to limits of territorial waters. Make Wandelaar Light and proceed to Wielingen Light for pilot. If no pilot, return and enter Flushing by Schooneveld and Oostgat. (DçNçI., to V.A., Dover, 0957/10)

Situation ashore at Ymuiden and Hook of Holland obscure. German troops may be in vicinity. Approach with caution (V A Dover 1720/10 to WHITSHED, WILD SWAN)

ORDERS, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE IDEA OF THE FORMATION OF THE EXPORT GROUP IN MIND. MEANWHILE, EXPORT AND GOVERNMENT ORDERS WILL BE BOOKED FOR DELIVERY UP TO AUGUST 31.

IT IS GENERALLY EXPECTED THAT, WHEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING AN EXPORT GROUP IS MADE, IT WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY NOTIFICATION OF INCREASED PRICES TO BE PAYABLE BY THE HOME TRADE AFTER THE DATE NAMED. SOME QUARTERS ARE OF THE OPINION THAT A SYSTEM OF "PREFERENCE DIRECTIONS" SUCH AS IS IN OPERATION IN THE COTTON YARN TRADE WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE RAYON INDUSTRY AS WELL.

IT IS CONFIDENTLY EXPECTED THAT, WHEN THE EXPORT GROUP HAS BEEN FORMED, SOME SCHEME WILL ALSO BY THEN HAVE BEEN EVOLVED BY WHICH THE IMPORT OF ROYAL FROM JAPAN, ITALY AND SWITZERLAND FOR PURPOSES OF RE-EXPORT WILL BE MATERIALLY FACILITATED.

INSOFAR AS JAPAN IS CONCERNED, IT IS HELD PROBABLE THAT A PLAN WILL HAVE TO BE THOUGHT OUT WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES DO NOT SPEND YEN EXCHANGE ON GOODS EXPORTED TO THE STERLING AREA.

AT PRESENT, IMPORTS OF RAYON FROM FRANCE ARE BEING ALLOWED AT THE RATE OF 100 PER CENT OF THEIR PRE-WAR

SITUATION REPORT

~~Saturday~~
10.5.40
Friday

SECRET

German ships in Dutch E & W Indies.

There are 19 German ships of 118,866 tons in the Dutch East Indies and 9 in the Dutch West Indies and Guiana. At Aruba the ANTILLA (4400 tons) scuttled herself and salvage is considered impossible. At Curacoa, the masters of all the 7 German ships in port have been captured and the crews interned: two of the ships, PATRICIA (3900 tons) and ALEMANIA (1383 tons) were set on fire by their crews, but the fires were later extinguished; and a third ship, the HENRY HORN (3160 tons) made an unsuccessful attempt to scuttle herself. At Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, the GOSLAR (6040 tons) is reported scuttled.

In the Dutch East Indies the position is not yet clear. The Governor General, NEI, informed Singapore that steps had been taken to "intern" all German ships in N.E.I. ports and Allied ships were expected to continue to respect NEI territorial waters. Up to 1500/10 messages were being intercepted from Batavia instructing Dutch merchant ships not to call at British or French ports. C in C China has not received confirmation that German ships have been seized.

19.42 AIR RAID ALARM IN N.W. FRANCE.

PARIS, MAR 4: AN AIR RAID ALARM WAS SOUNDED IN NORTH WEST FRANCE AT 2.15 P.M. TODAY. IT LASTED JUST OVER AN HOUR, THE ALL CLEAR BEING GIVEN AT 3.22 P.M. NO INCIDENT HAS BEEN REPORTED. --REUTER

B-2

19.43 WALL STREET : THIRD HOUR MAR 4

TURNOVER 280,000 SHARES. DOW JONES RAILS 30.46, INDUSTRIALS 146.57, UTILITIES 24.03. --REUTER

B-2

War Diary.

Situation Report. 10.5.1940
Friday

Invasion of the Low Countries.

SECRET

News was received at 5.20 am that Holland had been invaded, and at 6.25 am that Belgium and Luxemburg had also been attacked. The Germans have mined Dutch and Belgian ports with magnetic mines. The lock gates at Calais were damaged by a bomb. The first attacks were made on aerodromes, not on the line: French aerodromes were bombed, preventing fighters from taking off. Three British aerodromes were bombed without damage.

The prearranged operations have been put in train. These comprise Operations "Lyster"; × D, F A and CBX. BIRMINGHAM, GALATEA, ARETHUSA and a force of destroyers are to come under the orders of C in C Nore for work on the Dutch coast after escorting the damaged KELLY to Rosyth. KELLY was bombed intermittently during the latter part.

Arrangements have been made for mutual recognition of British and Dutch Naval forces.

VALENTINE and WINCHESTER, A/A destroyers sailed from Dover 1600/10 pr Dunkirk to provide A/A protection to the Belgian Army. WESTMINSTER and VIMIERA are to follow.

A broadcast was made on behalf of the Dutch and Belgian Governments ordering Dutch and Belgian ships not to proceed to Dutch, Belgian or German ports.

CS 2 in GALATEA with ARETHUSA, KEITH and BOREAS arrived at Ymuiden at dusk 10/5 to escort 3 merchant ships with Pilots to Southend.

Small bodies of Germans (landed by air?) on the beach North and South of The Hague were successfully attacked by our a/c's. Minesweeping Walling tows operated off Ymuiden without result. 11 German a/c were seen crashed on the beach south of where the Amsterdam Canal runs into the sea.

CHIEF IN NORWAY, HITLER INSTRUCTS THAT NORWEGIAN SOLDIERS TAKEN PRISONER SHALL BE SET FREE, SAYS THE GERMAN OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY.

AN EXCEPTION IS MADE OF REGULAR SOLDIERS WHO MUST BE KEPT PRISONER UNTIL CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE FULFILLED BY THE "FORMER NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT." --REUTER

M-1

15.22 ADD 13.05 - THE PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION...

THE SITUATION REMAINS TOO FLUID TO ENABLE ANY RELIABLE FORECAST TO BE MADE AT THIS MOMENT.

IT IS KNOWN THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SEES NO REASON FOR HIS OWN RESIGNATION AND THAT HIS NATURE WILL PROBABLY DICTATE A COOL

SECRE

~~HOME COMMANDS.~~
Situation Report.

10 ~~9~~. 5. 1940
~~Thursday~~.
Friday.

Parachute troops were dropped during the day in small parties at many points near the Dutch coast. Troop carrying a/c's landed on the beach at Scheveningen and near Waasenaar.

There was considerable activity by German a/c's laying parachute mines at various points off the Dutch and Belgian coasts and in the Dutch waterways.

German parachute troops disguised in Dutch and British uniforms landed and seized the Dutch aerodromes at Vetterburg and Kykduin. About 1200 parachute troops landed and captured Waalhaven aerodrome near Rotterdam.

It has been reported in the Press that some 70 a/c's were shot down over Holland and Belgium during the day.

WHITSHED engaged in operations off Ymuiden was subjected to persistent air attack during the afternoon and suffered slight damage and several casualties. It is claimed that one or possibly 2 enemy a/c's were shot down.

FAILED TO ARRIVE AND IT IS REGARDED AS CERTAIN THAT THE SHIP HAS SUNK.

A LIFEBOAT, SOME LIFEBELTS AND A QUANTITY OF MERCHANDISE, BELIEVED TO BELONG TO HER HAVE BEEN FOUND FLOATING.

B-" --REUTER

19.35 MINISTRY OF SUPPLY'S PURCHASES. MAR 4.

SOME IDEA OF THE AMOUNT INVOLVED IN THE PURCHASE BY THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS WHICH ARE SO ESSENTIAL TO THE WAR EFFORT CAN BE GAINED FROM THE FACT THAT RAW MATERIALS APART FROM THOSE PURCHASED UNDER THE LONG TERM PLAN HAVE AMOUNTED IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS TO £140 MILLIONS. THE MINISTRY HAVE SPENT ON TEXTILES AND LEATHER £60 MILLIONS, ON MACHINE TOOLS £20 MILLIONS ON SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS £16 MILLIONS AND ON GENERAL STORES

SECRET

Situation Report.

10.5.1940
Friday.

Iceland (continued)

and FORTUNE. GLASGOW is bringing the German Consular Staff and about 20 prisoners. Two Swedish and one Danish ships were boarded; the two former are being sailed to Kirkwall, the latter to the Clyde.

GUARDIAN has left Klaxvik for the coast.

Enemy air activity (See also Invasion of the Low Countries.)

Enemy a/c's were active off the English and Scottish coasts ~~during~~ between 0330/10 and 0530/10. ~~[redacted]~~

There was intense activity by enemy a/c's throughout the day, for the most part connected with the operations developing in Belgium and Holland.

~~[redacted]~~ KELLY in tow of BULLDOG was persistently attacked by enemy bombers throughout the afternoon in a position about 190 miles E by N from Tory Island, but without success. Enemy a/c's also shadowed MANCHESTER and SHEFFIELD covering KELLY.

~~[redacted]~~ No attacks were made on shipping, although a/c's approached convoys off the coast. Enemy a/c's are reported to have dropped incendiary bombs at Chilham near Canterbury during the course of a flight over the Kent coast.

INFORMED OPINION AT THE MOMENT DOES NOT SEE A EXISTING SOLUTION WITHOUT THE INCORPORATION OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES UNLESS THE PRIME MINISTER IS PREPARED TO MAKE SWEEPING CHANGES.

IF, THEREFORE, THE OPPOSITION WILL NOT SERVE UNDER MR CHAMBERLAIN, WOULD THEY SERVE IN A GOVERNMENT IN WHICH MR CHAMBERLAIN HELD SOME OTHER OFFICE?

THE ANSWER IS BELIEVED TO B ~~T~~ NO.

IT MAY BE THEREFORE THAT AFTER FULL EXAMINATION OF ALL THE FACTORS THE PRIME MINISTER WILL FIND INSUFFICIENT MATERIAL AT HIS OWN DISPOSAL TO MEET THE SITUAT ON.

SINCE THOSE WHO ENVISAGED CHAMBERLAIN'S DEPARTURE ALSO ASSUME THAT OF SIR JOHN SIMON, SIR SAMUEL HOARE AND OTHERS, THE RANGE OF SPECULATION ON ALTERNATIVES BECOMES VERY WIDE. IT REACHES THE HOUSE OF LORDS FOR LORD HALIFAX'S POPULARITY WITH ALL PARTIES MAKES HIS NAME ONE OF THOSE DISCUSSED AS A POSSIBLE WARTIME PRIME MINISTER...WITH ACCESS TO THE COMMONS OF WHICH FORMERLY HE WAS A VERY POPULAR MEMBER. --REUTER

SECRET

Situation Report.

10.5.1940
Friday.

Narvik area.

PENELOPE postponed her sailing for the UK until last night, on account of weather. She sailed at 2300/11.

~~The operation~~ ~~to land troops at Bjerkvik~~ planned for tonight, has had to be postponed for 24 hours on account of bad weather.

Strong naval forces were off Ballangen, near Narvik at 1000/10.

~~The AA battery, stores, petrol and kit in~~ BALZAC and COLWOLD are being transferred to ~~USTER MONARCH~~ and MARINA for immediate ~~transfer to Narvik~~.

Mosjoen, Bodo, No.

2 fast coastal steamers and one identified as SS NORD NORGE, carrying 400 troops, were sighted at 1000/10 about 50 miles SE of Mosjoen, proceeding North. CALCUTTA and ZULU were sent to destroy them. At 9 pm CALCUTTA reported that NORD NORGE was lying alongside the pier at MO, sunk. CALCUTTA and ZULU returned to Skjel Fjord to escort PENELOPE.

Iceland (Operation FORK)

BERWICK ~~reported at 7.5 am that the Dominion had landed and was storing~~ arrived at Reykjavik at 0500/10. She landed 25 Lee troops and ~~commenced landing~~ stores and left at 1900 with GLASGOW, FEARLESS,

AND UNHURRIED EXAMINATION OF THE REAL EXTENT OF THE FEELING BEHIND LAST NIGHT'S VOTE.

HE BEGINS WITH HIS OWN BACK BENCHERS THIS AFTERNOON. THE LABOUR OPPOSITION COULD GIVE NO OFFICIAL ANSWER TO ANY APPROACH TO THEM UNTIL THEY HAD CONSULTED THE PARTY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK - AND THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE LIKELY TO WAIT FOR A FORMAL REPLY EVEN THOUGH THE OPPOSITION MADE IT CLEAR IN THE DEBATE YESTERDAY THAT THEY COULD NOT SERVE UNDER HIM.

THE KEY TO IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS IS PROBABLY TO BE FOUND IN WHAT MANY OF HIS FOLLOWERS TODAY DECLARE TO BE THE CAUSE OF ALL THE TROUBLE - HIS TENACIOUS LOYALTY TO OLD CABINET COLLEAGUES.

ALTHOUGH THE OPPOSITION ATTACK THE PRIME MINISTER'S OWN CAPACITY TO GOVERN IN WAR TIME THEIR VIEW IS NOT BORNE OUT BY THOSE WHO HAVE THE CLOSEST CONTACT WITH HIS WAR WORK. SUCH IS NOT THE CASE IN REGARD TO A NUMBER OF OTHER SENIOR MINISTERS WHO ARE CHAMBERLAIN'S CLOSEST ASSOCIATES AND IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT HE WILL HAVE TO PART WITH THEM OR GO WITH THEM.

NO MERE RESHUFFLING OF PERSONNEL WILL BE ACCEPTED.

INFORMED OPINION AT THE MOMENT DOES NOT SEE A LASTING

Danube.

A Press report from Belgrade states that German shipping firms have been ordered to stop German oil tankers from going down the Danube.

Miscellaneous

Hilversum at 1946/10

~~A Dutch~~ broadcast states that telephone communication between Germany and Hungary is cut.

NOIC Simonstown reports that the Italian SS DUCHESSA D'AOSTA has requested quick clearance from Simonstown, and has cancelled the cargo she was due to embark at Durban.

SECRET

Situation Report.

10.5.1940
Friday.

Italy.

It is rumoured that 75,000 Italian troops are concentrated in the South of Italy for evacuation. (1754)

Suez Canal.

With reference to reports yesterday ~~of a~~ of Germans ~~plan~~ plan to sink a ship loaded with cement in the Suez Canal, local defence plans are in force (1454)

~~Australian Troop Convoy.~~

~~U.S. will arrive at~~

15.19 RUMANIAN OIL AND FOODSTUFFS REQUISITIONED

BUCHAREST, MAY 9.: AN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF THE RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT, MEETING UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF M. TATARESCU, THE PREMIER, TODAY APPROVED A DECREE FOR THE REQUISITIONING OF ALL OIL FUEL, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, CEREALS AND FOODSTUFFS.

THIS STEP IS BEING TAKEN, IT IS STATED, IN THE INTERESTS OF NATIONAL DEFENCE AND IN ORDER TO ENSURE SUPPLIES FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. --REUTER

M-1

15.21 PRISONERS TO BE FREED

BERLIN, MAY 9.: IN AN ORD R TO THE GERMAN COMMANDER-IN-

HOME COMMANDS. 10.5.40.
Operations Friday

SECRET

Low Countries

Operation LYSTER (Blocking)

Prepare to carry out Operations ~~DE~~ EF and DF.
Forces D & E are to be brought to immediate
notice (DOD 0610/10, 08 25/10 to C in C Nore)

Operation LYSTER is being brought TO
immediate notice (~~Air Min~~ DOD 0613/10
to Air Min.)

Operation LYSTER is being brought to short
notice. Army signal units should proceed
to Sheerness (DC 0644/10 to W O.)

Code words. Operation DF Olive
Operation EF Robin
(DC 1118/10)

Bring EF and DF to immediate notice
(C in C Nore 0601/10)

15.28 U.S. STEEL SCRAP.

NEW YORK, MAY 8: NUMBER ONE HEAVY MELTING STEEL SCRAP WAS SOLD AT PITTSBURGH FOR 17.50 DOLLARS PER TON. THIS IS AN ADVANCE OF FIFTY CENTS.

THE PRICE IS NOW QUOTED AT 17.00 TO 17.50 DOLLARS.

B-2 --REUTER

HOME COMMANDOS.
Operations

10.5.40
Friday.

SECRET

Low Countries

~~Captain Dangerfield's~~ Operation Oyster

FLORENTINO
TRANSEAS
PACIFICO
BORODINO
ATLANTIC
GUIDE

Keep steam at 2 hours' notice, coming to immediate notice by 0800/10
(0000(1235/10)

CONDITIONS HAVE ALTERED BUT LITTLE FROM THOSE PREVAILING DURING THE MORNING.

GILT-EDGED ARE STILL THE MAIN CENTRE OF ATTRACTION AND, ALTHOUGH THE BUYING TO DATE HAS BEEN LARGELY PROFESSIONAL, A GOOD DEAL OF PUBLIC INTEREST IS ALSO BEING SHOWN.

IN THE FOREIGN MARKET FRESH DECLINES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN BRAZILIAN BONDS AND EGYPTIANS HAVE LOST HALF A POINT.

AMONG INDUSTRIALS ELECTRIC SUPPLY AND EQUIPMENT SHARES, AS WELL AS THE CABLES AND WIRELESS ISSUES ARE ON OFFER IN A SMALL WAY, BUT STORE SHARES ARE RATHER FIRMER THAN OF LATE.

NO FURTHER CHANGE IS RECORDED IN RAILS OR OILS AND THE MOVEMENTS IN THE MINING GROUPS ARE SCARCELY WORTHY OF MENTION.

S-1 --REUTER.

SECRET

Parties landed. Certain amount of aircraft activity from fighters and reconn. machines. No bombing locally. Northern side of channel is reported to be blockedby magnetic mines. Parachute troops landed in vicinity. (WILD SWAN, 1752/10)

Dutch Foreign Minister states large amount of gold at Rotterdam, estimated weight 36 tons. Essential to get gold away tonight. Make all arrangementsin co-operation with local authorities. Gold to be loaded in merchant ships or WILD SWAN as convenient. (D.O.D. (H), to WILD SWAN, 1831/10)

WIVERN arrives Hook at daybreak with Military Mission. Request for assistance from Dutch authorities against enemy landing by air at Waalhaven should be complied with by one or both destroyers as you think fit. (V.A., Dover, to WILD SWAN, 2136/10)

12.07 FRANCE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE WAR.

PARIS, MCH 2: FRANCE'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE THE WAR UNTIL EUROPE IS RIDDEN OF CONDITIONS NECESSITATING WAR EVERY 25 YEARS WAS RE-EMPHASISED BY M. DALADIER IN AN INTER-VIEW WITH THE CORRESPONDENTS OF THE JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS "TOKYO NICHI NICHI SHIMBUN" AND "OSAKA MAINICHI SHIMBUN".

THE INTERVIEW RANGED OVER VARIOUS TOPICS AND INCLUDED THE FRANCO-JAPANESE DISPUTE CONCERNING THE JAPANESE BOMBING OF THE FRENCH OWNED HAIPHONE-YUNNAN RAILWAY.

M. DALADIER SAID HE PROPOSED TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF NEUTRALS TO CONTROL THE GOODS TRANSPORTED ON THE YUNNAN RAILWAY AND VERIFY THAT THERE WAS NO WAR CONTRABAND.

HE ADDED "JAPAN REFUSED THIS FORMULA BUT WE CAN FIND ANOTHER METHOD. ONE CAN ALWAYS FIND A METHOD TO ESTABLISH FACTS".

DALADIER ON NAZIISM AND BOLSHEVISM.

1075

SECRET

Operation X D

WHITSHED Report

Subject to heavy persistent air attack off Ymuiden. Two dead, some wounded, several blown overboard may be lost. Steering gear apparently damaged, two holes. Demolition party now ashore. Town and district in friendly Dutch hands. Reception cordial. Local attitude confident. Reported 70 aircraft destroyed today. Military situation improving and aerodrome being recaptured from parachute troops. C.O. of landing party doesnot expect action for some time so intend returning Dover now. (WHITSHED, 1940/10)

2 destroyers in addition to those employed on Operation X D are being sent Hook of Holland to co-operate in Dutch defence. (D.S.D.9, 2004/10, to N.A., Hague)

SUBMIT TO PRESSURE FROM ANYONE".

THE MESSAGGERO REFERS TO "A PRESS WHICH HAS RECOURSE TO THE MOST PERFIDIOUS MEANS OF PREPARING AN EXTENSION OF THE CONFLICT", AND ADDS:

"THAT THAT IS THE AIM OF THESE MANOEUVRES IS CONFIRMED BY THE TELEPHONE TALK BETWEEN MR CHAMBERLAIN AND M. REYNAUD DISCLOSED YESTERDAY WHICH NO DENIAL WILL EVER SUCCEED IN DISCREDITING. --REUTER.

HOME COMMANDS. 10.5.40

SECRET

Operation 7D

2 destroyers in addition to those carrying out Operation 7D are to proceed to Hook of Holland and get in touch with Dutch officers with a view to co-operation with Dutch defence (DOD(F) 2012/10 to C in C Nore)

WIVERN left for Hook of Holland, MALCOLM for North Goodwin Patrol (VAD over 2035/10)

Arrange pilots for 4 trawlers and 2 drifters arriving am/11 (C in C Nore 2307/10 to VERITY)

If fuel permits send two destroyers to enter Hook of Holland at daylight and co-operate defensive action with WILD SWAN and local authorities. (C. in C., Nore, 2132/10), to BIRMINGHAM)

ZURICH 1 MONTH 6 [illegible]

B-6 --REUTER

10.06 LONDON OFFICIAL EXCHANGES

NEW YORK...4.02-1/2 - 4.03-1/2 PARIS 176.50 - 176.75

AMSTERDAM 7.52 - 7.57 BELGIUM 23.70 - 23.85

CANADA 4.43 - 4.47 B.A. 17.05 - 17.30

SWITZLD 17.85 - 17.95 OSLO 17.65 - 17.75

STOCKHOLM 16.85 - 16.95 JAVA 7.46 - 7.54

B-2 --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Low Countries

10.5.40.
Friday

Operation FA (Dunkerque)
Open envelope FA(000 0619/10 to WESTMINSTER, VALENTINE, VIMIERA, WINCHESTER)
Proceed to Dover with all despatch.
(CiC Royten 0553/10 to WESTMINSTER, WINCHESTER, VALENTINE, VIMIERA)
Ships named in above signal are proceeding to Dunquerque calling at Dover to commence Operation FA (Actg 0638/10 to Air Min, HQCC)
~~Continue~~ Ships named in above signal have been ordered to Dover with all despatch. Continue normal duty with your convoys (CiC Royten 0743/10 to LONDONDERRY, WESTON, VIVIEN, BREDA)
VIMIERA sailed (FOIC Tyne 0900/10)
Expect to arrive 1230 (WINCHESTER 0932/10 to FOC Dover)
VALENTINE arrived Dover 1142/10 (VA Dover 1146/10)
VIMIERA expected time of arrival Dover 1945 (VIMIERA 1530/10) Arrived 2030 (Chatham 2035/10)
WINCHESTER, VALENTINE left for Dunkirk 1600 (VA Dover 1604/10)
~~VIMY, WESSEX, VIVACIOUS, WINDSOR, WALPOLE,~~ VESPER, VENETIA, VERSATILE are placed under orders of CiC Nore and except VENETIA are to proceed to Dover with all despatch, pulling at Plymouth en route (CiC CWA 1953/10)

SECRET

M15.58 CHAMBERLAIN...5

19

"IT HAS BEEN ASKED HOW IT WAS THAT GERMANY WAS ABLE TO FORESTALL US. IT WAS BY LONG-PLANNED CAREFULLY ELABORATED TREACHERY AGAINST AN UNSUSPECTING AND ALMOST UNARMED PEOPLE.

"WE HAVE BEEN AWARE FOR MANY MONTHS THAT THE GERMANS WERE ACCUMULATING TRANSPORTS AND TROOPS IN BALTIC PORTS.

"IT WAS EVIDENT SOME ACT OF AGGRESSION WAS IN CONTEMPLATION."

B-1 --REUTER

'' ''

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Low Countries

10.5.40
Friday

Operation CBX (minelaying)
(EXPRESS, ESK, INTREPID, PRINCESS VICTORIA)

D 20 to escort

PRINCESS VICTORIA is to sail as soon as possible for Operation CBX. D 20 acts as escort. Further Signal will be made as to hostilities in which mines should be laid (DOD(H) 0739/10)

SECRET

CBX tonight

Operation CB is being carried out tonight 10/5 by PRINCESS VICTORIA escorted by 3 destroyers and will be referred to as Operation CBX. Warn Dutch coastal batteries (DOD(H) 0848/10. to NA Hague)

Positions of mines.

Operation CBX. mines are to be laid in direction 280° from 52°32'N 4°30'E (DOD(H) 0856/10 to PRINCESS VICTORIA)

Re. A.L. M/PD 08382/40. Minelaying operation CB will be carried out tonight 10/5 and will be referred to as CBX. Mines will be laid in area bounded by 52°40'N 52°30'N, 4°10'E and Dutch coast (DO D(H) 0925/10 ≠, RA(S) 1109/10 to S/M's on patrol)
PRINCESS VICTORIA left Humber 0915/10 ~~(Fo Humber 0936 Ha)~~ with WIDGEON, SHEARWATER, DUFFIN (Fo Humber 0936/10)

12.03 CANADIAN PACIFIC ANNUAL MEETING MAY 2.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SIR EDWARD BEATTY, CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT, CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY, ADDRESSING THE SHAREHOLDERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN MONTREAL YESTERDAY, SAID, INTER ALIA:-

"WHEN WE MET A YEAR AGO, IT WAS IN KEEN ANTICIPATION OF THE EPOCH-MAKING VISIT TO CANADA OF THEIR MAJESTIES, KING GEORGE VI AND QUEEN ELIZABETH. IT IS UNNECESSARY TO RECALL TO YOU THE MANY HAPPY DETAILS OF THEIR TRIUMPHAL PROGRESS THROUGH THE DOMINION, THE SPONTANEOUS EXPRESSIONS OF LOYALTY AND DEVOTION WHICH IT CALLED FORTH, AND THE GOODWILL AND ENTHUSIASM EVOKED IN THE GREAT NEIGHBOURING REPUBLIC TO THE SOUTH. THESE ARE MATTERS OF HISTORY AND HAVE HAD AN INCALCULABLE EFFECT ON OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

OUR COUNTRY IS NOW AT WAR, AND YOUR COMPANY HAS ASSUMED ITS SHARE OF THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY OF MAINTAINING VITAL LINKS

HOME COMMANDS
Operations
Low Countries
Operation C BX

10.5.40.
Friday

When D20 has taken over escort
duties and proceeded to Harwich
(C in C Nore 1002/10)
Informing WHITSHED of PRINCESS
VICTORIA's operations (VA Dover
1937/10)

SECRET

PRINCESS VICTORIA and 3 destroyers pass through position 146 Smiths Knoll, 5 miles at 1600 today 10/5, course 096 degrees, speed 16 knots. Force is expected to leave Dutch coast at approx. 2145 and return by same route. (D.D.O.D.(M), 1358/10)

Your 1107/10, request for Smiths Knoll to continue at full brilliance from 0130/11 for 1 hour. Authorities informed, lights arranged. (D.D.O.D.(M), 1608/10)

13.22. MEDITERRANEAN MEASURES PURELY PRECAUTIONARY MAY 1.

IT IS LEARNED ON RELIABLE AUTHORITY THAT THE MEASURES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAVE PROPOSED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN ARE PURELY PRECAUTIONARY AND OF A DEFENSIVE CHARACTER, AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE EARNEST HOPE OF H.M. GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WILL PROVE TO BE ONLY TEMPORARY. THAY HAVE, ANYWAY, BEEN TAKEN ONLY FROM THE NECESSITY OF CONSIDERING EVERY POSSIBLE SITUATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, HOWEVER REMOTE IT MAY APPEAR. --REUTER

CH-1

Operation CBX

SECRET

Operation CBX completed
(PRINCESS VICTORIA 2140/10)

10.06 U.S. EXPORTS TO RUSSIA.

WASHINGTON, MAY 1: AMERICAN EXPORTS OF TIN AND RUBBER TO RUSSIA HAVE CEASED, WHILE COPPER SHIPMENTS HAVE GREATLY DIMINISHED, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL QUARTERS HERE.

THIS STATEMENT WAS MADE IN REPLY TO THE ASSERTION OF MR RONALD CROSS, THE BRITISH MINISTER OF ECONOMIC WARFARE, IN HIS SPEECH TO THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN LONDON YESTERDAY, THAT GERMANY IS OBTAINING NECESSARY SUPPLIES FROM THE UNITED STATES VIA SIBERIA. --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS 10.5.40.

• Operations ~~Contacts~~ Friday

Low Countries - General

SECRET

Calais dock damaged. Dock gates at Calais extensively damaged (by a bomb) No. 1 Train Ferry immobilised in basin. Unable to sail train ferries to Calais. (V.A. Dover 0625/10)

Wearing of 2 or 3 White Ensigns. Inform Dutch authorities that ~~Warships~~ forces from Nore Command will fly 2 or 3 White Ensigns during first 48 hours on Dutch coast when within range of Dutch forts or warships. GALATEA, ARETHUSA, BIRMINGHAM may be off coast but will keep out of range of forts if possible. Giving numbers painted on our destroyers operating off coast (C.-in-C. Nore 0640/10, D.T. 0829/10)

Belgium Luxemburg attached (A. 0648/10)

Dutch and Belgian ports reported to have been mined by the Germans with magnetic mines, but Y. Maiden is known to be clear (T.S.M.)

Shipping. All British and Norwegian ships in Dutch and Belgian ports are to be sailed to United Kingdom as soon as possible. Too much attention should not be paid to reports of enemy mine-laying. (D.T.D., 0952/10).

15.21 WALL STREET OPENING REPORT.

NEW YORK, MAY 8: THE TONE AT THE OPENING WAS NARROWLY IRREGULAR. WHILE SENTIMENT IS MORE CHEERFUL, CAUTIOUS TRADING IS EXPECTED PENDING FURTHER BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENTS. -REUTER

B-2

14

HOME COMMANDS 10.5.40

Low Countries. Channel Ports

General.

SECRET

Reported that South Shore of the Maas is in the hands of the enemy. (V.A., Dover, 1421/10).

French Military H.Q. report German parachute troops have landed at 0730 north of the Hague near beach of Katwijk and 100 aircraft are supposed to have landed. (D.D.I.C., 1452/10

F.O.telegram from The Hague. According to advice of my Military Attache, if the Germans continue to land troops at the present rate the Hague will soon be in German Hands. (D.D.I.C., 1453/10)

F.O.telegram from The Hague. The Dutch Govt. are most indignant at the German assertion that they have occupied the Hague and say that they have the situation well in hand. They say, however, we must bomb the aerodrome at Rotterdam. (D.D.I.C., 1515/10)

Following from French General H.Q. The Germans have landed from the sea near Wassewaar (between Scheveningen and Katwijk-Aan-Zee. Information considered reliable. (D.D.I.C., 1602/10)

Following Following from W.O. Dutch are insistent we must bomb Waalhaven and ~~Ypenbu~~ Ypenburg aerodromes. Germans continually dropping parachute troops there. N.A., Hague, insistent action should be taken as early as possible, as it is vital these landings be stopped. (D.D.I.C.,1603/10)

12.56 BRITISH PRESS ATTACKED BY ROME PAPER.

ROME, MAY 8: CHARGES AGAINST THE BRITISH PRESS OF PUBLISHING FALSE REPORTS CONCERNING ITALY ARE MADE IN THE MESSAGGERO TODAY.

SOME OF THE STORIES REFERRED TO ARE MENTIONED AND THEY ARE DESCRIBED BY THE MESSAGGERO AS "BEING PART OF A PRESS CAMPAIGN AIMED AT PREPARING CONDITIONS FAVOURABLE FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE WAR TO THE BALKANS".

ONE OF THEM WAS THE ONE THAT BRITAIN HAD ASKED ITALY TO DEFINE HER ATTITUDE TO THE WAR BY MAR 16 AS HER PRESENT POSITION OF NON-BELLIGERENCY WAS CONSIDERED UNSATISFACTORY IN LONDON".

"NO SUCH DEMARCHE IN THIS SENSE WAS EVER MADE," THE PAPER SAYS, "AND IT WOULD IN ANY CASE BE ABSURD TO CREDIT IT AS ITALY HAS NO EXPLANATION TO FURNISH AND IS NOT DISPOSED TO

SECRET

10.5.1940
Friday.

Low Countries, HOME COMMANDS.

~~Operations~~ - General.

Military Mission. One destroyer arriving from Portsmouth is to be available to convey British Military Mission to Hook of Holland. Military Mission expects to arrive Dover by bus about 1630. Request you will issue sailing orders and sail destroyer as soon as possible after Mission arrives. (D.O.D.(H), 1326/10, to V.A.,Dover)

Evacuation of Nationals. Foreign Office report from Sir L. Oliphant that he wasmaking arrangements for the evacuation of British subjects in Belgium to Ostend. Hoped to arrange that the British subjects should be taken off in one of the Belgian ships. If this not possible, he might have to ask us to send a ship to Ostend for them. (D.D.I.C., 1400/10)
Admty 1400. Can one of your destroyers be made available for this on completion of X.D.?
(C.in C., Nore, 1729/10, to V.A Dover)

Military Convoys. Request you will sendone destroyer to Portsmouth for escort duty with military convoys. Expected this destroyer could return to your command in a few days. (D.O.D.(H), 1444/10, to C. in C. W.A.)
Admty's 1444/10. Request you will send a destroyer to arrive at Spithead by 2000 tomorr 11th for escort of military convoys. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1723/10, to C.in C., W.A.)

Your 1729. A destroyer will be sent if request is made. (V.A., Dover, 2015/10, to C.in C.,Nore)

Send one destroyer (C. in C Nore 2047/10 to BIRMINGHAM)

"WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO OVERTAKE THE START WHICH GERMANY OBTAINED IN HER LONG YEARS OF PREPARATION. WE ARE GETTING TODAY THE WHOLE-HEARTED COOPERATION OF EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS.

"I HOPE WE MAY GET THE COOPERATION OF MEMBERS OF ALL PARTIES."

THERE WAS A CRY OF 'NO' MADE APPARENTLY BY ONLY ONE MEMBER.

"WE DO NOT SET OURSELVES UP AS FAULTLESS AND ABOVE RECEIVING HELP FROM THOSE WILLING TO HELP.

"LET US BEFORE THE FIRST TRIALS COME UPON US PUT ALL OUR STRENGTH INTO THIS WORK AND WE SHOULD STEADILY INCREASE OUR STRENGTH UNTIL WE OURSELVES ARE ABLE TO DELIVER OUR BLOWS WHEN

HOME C.D's. Operations

1075

SECRET

Low Countries / General

Belgium. War Office states Belgian Govt. requested via Belgian M.A. no British landings without previous notification to Belgian Govt. as they thought Germans might land in British uniforms. (D.D.I.C., 1401/10)

Scheveningen. HEREWARD ordered to proceed with despatch in accordance with C.in C. Nore's 2047/10, evacuation of British women and children from Scheveningen. (BIRMINGHAM, 2159/10).

Scheldt | Large amount of shipping observed in Scheldt and AA fire experienced from shipping particularly from large vessel with red mark on funnel. Apparently AA fire also coming from shore batteries ends.

(Air Min. 1904/10)

4

10.55 ITALIAN MINISTER LEAVES HUNGARY.

BUDAPEST, MAY 6: SIGNOR HOST VENTURI, THE ITALIAN MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, WHO HAS BEEN SPENDING SEVERAL DAYS IN BUDAPEST, LEFT FOR ROME LAST NIGHT.

IN A STATEMENT BEFORE LEAVING, SIGNOR HOST VENTURI SAID THAT HIS VISIT HAD ONCE AGAIN PROVED THAT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ITALY AND HUNGARY WAS THE NATURAL OUTCOME OF FEELINGS WHICH HAD UNITED THE TWO COUNTRIES IN A PERFECT HARMONY OF IDEAS THROUGH CENTURIES.

HE HAD BEEN GREATLY TOUCHED BY THE EXPRESSIONS OF SINCERE FRIENDSHIP FOR THE DUCE AND COUNT CIANO. --REUTER

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

SECRET

10.5.1940
Friday.

Low Countries - General.

Dutch General Staff appear satisfied with situation except that we have not bombed Waalhaven aerodrome. Other aerodromes again in Dutch hands. Fighting round Delft proceeding satisfactorily. Situation round Hague much better. Hope entertained of dealing with Rotterdam satisfactorily but heavy bombing of river outside Rotterdam and Germans still dropping parachutists at Waalhaven. Front line holding out well but position at Apeldorn a bit tender. One Dutch t.b.d. sunk near Rotterdam. (N.A., Hague, 2020/10)

Report on situation, from N.A., Hague. (D.D.I.C., 2030/10)

Telephone message from N.A., Hague, on situation, (T.O.R. about 1930/10)

Ditto, recd. 1800/10.

MINISTER HAS SAID THAT THE PRESENT WAR CABINET IS A SUFFICIENT INSTRUMENT FOR CONDUCTING A WAR. WE HAVE CRITICISED IT OVER AND OVER AGIN. IT HAS BEEN CRITICISED BY MEN OF WIDE EXPERIENCE IN THE PRESS AND ON THE PLATFORM.

"WITH REGARD TO THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY, HE IS TO CONTINUE TO PRESIDE AT THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY AND ALSO TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHIEFS OF STAFFS COMMITTEE. FRANKLY, I DO NOT THINK IT IS FAIR TO PUT HIM IN THAT POSITION.

THE PRIME MINISTER: "I DIDN'T SAY HE WAS TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHIEFS OF STAFFS COMMITTEE. I SAID HE WAS TO GIVE GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION TO THEM."

MR ATTLEE CONTINUED: "HE IS GIVEN NOW A RATHER EXCEPTIONAL POSITION AS BEING THE MEMB[redacted] OF THE WAR CABINET MORE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH MAJOR STRATEGY. HE HAS TO DIVIDE HIS INTERESTS. THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY HAS VERY GREAT DIFFICULTIES TO CONTEND WITH AND I SAY IT IS NOT FAIR TO HIM TO BE PUT IN AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION." --REUTER

SECRET

10.5.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS
Operations

Low Countries - General

Waalhaven — Dutch ask that British warships should from New Waterway bombard Waalhaven aerodrome, now in German hands. Dutch destroyers doing this, one damaged. (N.A., Hague, 2105/10)

13.37 ITALIAN MINISTER SEES GREEK PREMIER : BERLIN REPORT

BERLIN, MAY 6: THE OFFICIAL GERMAN NEWS AGENCY REPORTS FROM ATHENS TODAY THAT THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER, GENERAL METAXAS, HAS HAD A TALK WITH THE ITALIAN MINISTER IN ATHENS IN THE COURSE OF WHICH GENERAL METAXAS IS SAID TO HAVE DECLARED THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND ITALY. --REUTER

B-2

13.39 STOCK MARKETS CONTINUE QUIET. MAY 6.

SECRET

10.5.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS
Dutch Naval Forces

Dutch s/ms and destroyers in tow and under own steam proceeding Rotterdam and Flushing to the Downs tonight. (F.O.I.C.,Dover, 2340/10)

Dutch Naval Attache reports, tonight after dark, accompaniedby guardship, submarines O.21 and O.22 and destroyer ISAAC SWEERS will be towed from Flushing, submarines O.23 and O.24 under own power, and destroyers TJERK HIDDES and CAILENBURGH and submarine O.25 towed from Rotterdam, all proceeding to Downs. (D.C., 2247/10)

Believed distribution of Dutch men-of-war ~~pru~~ prior to outbreak of war. (D.N.I., 1936/10)

12.41 DUTCH MUST NOW HAVE PASSPORTS FOR BELGIUM.

PARIS, MAY 8: THE BELGIAN EMBASSY ANNOUNCES THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT CITIZENS OF HOLLAND AND LUXEMBOURG WHO WISH TO GO TO BELGIUM MUST NOW HAVE NATIONAL PASSPORTS WITH A CONSULAR VISA.

THIS NEW PROVISION COMES INTO EFFECT ON FRIDAY.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - -

IN PRE-WAR DAYS, ANY PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION WAS SUFFICIENT IN THE CASE OF FRENCH, DUTCH OR LUXEMBOURGERS, GOING TO BELGIUM, NO FORMAL PASSPORT BEING NECESSARY.

PASSPORTS FOR FRENCH CITIZENS WERE INSTITUTED AT THE OUTBREAK OF WAR. --REUTER.

S-2

SECRET

HOME COMMANDS. 10.5.1940

~~Movements.~~ Friday.

Operations - general.

DMLG Cancelled. HAMPTON proceed to Portsmouth forthwith (VAD over 0646/10 to HAMPTON, MS 6, D19)

17.30 BROADCAST FROM VIENNA CUT OFF MAY 9.

A CONCERT RELAYED FROM VIENNA BY THE DEUTSCHLANDSENDER STATION THIS AFTERNOON WAS SUDDENLY BROKEN OFF.

THE ANNOUNCER SAID: "OWING TO A TECHNICAL HITCH, WE HAVE HAD TO INTERRUPT OUR TRANSMISSION FROM VIENNA."

THE CONCERT WAS NOT RESUMED BUT RECORDS WERE PLAYED INSTEAD.

B-2 --REUTER

17.31 GERMAN PLANE DOWN IN FRANCE

PARIS, MAY 9: A GERMAN PLANE MADE A FORCED LANDING IN A FIELD IN A VILLAGE IN CENTRAL FRANCE THIS MORNING.

WAR DIARY.

10.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik Area.

Landing at Bodo. — Disembarkation at Bodo completed. Am sailing with transport. (NUBIAN 0200/10).

Narvik.

CAIRO. — Arrived (F.O. Narvik 1700/10).

MANCHESTER. SHEFFIELD. — Your 0928/10. Should work from Rosyth. (D.O.D.(H) 1026/10 to C. in C. H.F).

FURIOUS. — In view of new situation have postponed embarking 263 Gladiators Sqdn. now waiting Prestwick until further instructions are received. (FURIOUS, 1010/10) Your 1010/10. Gladiator Sqdn. is to be embarked as soon as possible. (V.C.N.S. 1530/10)

Landing of French Troops near Bjervik Postponed. — Operation intended for tonight, Friday, has had to be postponed 24 hours owing to weather, which caused one M.L.C. carrying tank to founder, personnel saved. (F.O., Narvik, 0915/10).

1st C.S. — Your 1229/9. Intend to pass through position 70.45'N., 21.00'W., at 1800. Request A/S escort may join me there. Request information whether any of our own forces now at Tromso. (F.O.C., 1 CgS., 0817/10.

N.S.3. — Your 1655/9 and my 1945/9. Subject to confirmation from F.O. Narvik that Convoy can be received request Convoy N.S.3 may be sailed so that REDCAR and ACRITY can R.V. and proceed in company.
(C. in C. H.F. 1054/10 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Your 2115/9. Do you want MANCHESTER and SHEFFIELD to work from Rosyth or further south. If so I can send YORK but this means sending up reserve of 8 inch ammunition. (C. in C. H.F. 0928/10 to Admiralty.)

Asking for crew to be sent for captured German Trawler MARGARET which will be commissioned as despatch vessel (R.A. Narvik 0702/10).

WESTCOTT, VOLUNTEER join DEVONSHIRE 70°45'N., 21°0'E at 1800/10. Complete with oil fuel at Tromso. No other force Tromso (F.O. Narvik 1122/10).

Request Norwegian sea pilots may accompany Course of Convoys to Norway (R.A. Narvik 1336/10)

Proceed to Lavang Fiord 68°33'N., 16°35'E. by Tjeldsunder (F.O. Narvik 1401/10 to C.S.20. Repeated RESOLUTION).

PROTECTOR. Has had to be used for troop movements, and no nets have been laid. (R.A. Narvik, 0701/10) PROTECTOR is urgently required in Mediterranean and should be sailed for Rosyth without further delay after laying nets (D.O.D. (H) 2013/10).

Enemy Troops. 2 fast coastal steamers and 1 other carrying troops under air escort reported 225 degs. Mosjoen 70 and 45 miles respectively going north at 1000/10. Rendezvous and endeavour to intercept. (F.O. Narvik, to CALCUTTA, ZULU, 1155/10).

ZULU. Proceed towards Myken Light at present speed. If nothing sighted R.V. 158° DRIF 10 at 1700 (CALCUTTA 1408/10).

Operation BISHOP. Two Sub-Lieutenants, R.N.N. to be attached F.A.A. for liaison duties. (Fifth Sea Lord, 1939/10)
My 1820/8, Operation Bishop, ranks and ratings detailed to sail in MANELA on 18/5 may be granted leave, subject to immediate recall, up to p.m.15/5. (D.N.A.D. 1334/10).
My 1939/8, para. 9. Reserves consist of 3 Walrus and 3 Swordfish floatplanes. Arrangements for shipment will be signalled later. (D.N.A.D. 1643/10).

Landing pier. Reference Admiralty 2123/9 Paragraph 2 (c). Arrangements should be made for loading pier and craft mentioned. In addition for four horse boats for Scapa 10 with moorings should be made available at Southampton to meet requirements for Narvik which will be signalled. (D. of L.D. 1455/10 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

CALCUTTA Operation Transport Sunk. At 1000/10, 2 fast coastal steamers and a third steamer later identified as probably s.s. NORD NORGE carrying 400 troops were sighted about 70 and 45 miles respectively S.W. of Mosjoen. CALCUTTA and ZULU were sent to intercept and at 2104/10, CALCUTTA reported the NORD NORGE sunk off Mo. (I.C. 0447/40 CALCUTTA 2104/10), (F.O. Narvik 1724/10, 1411/10).
Your 2104/10. Did you see anything of German flying boats? (F.O. Narvik 2355/10).

COXWOLD.	Seaworthy and fit for passage to Narvik with balance of petrol cargo (C. in C. H.F.1615/10).
CALCUTTA.	When you have done all you can to hinder enemy join PENELOPE who is sailing (F.O. Narvik 2231/10). Am returning to Skjel Fiord with ZULU to pick up PENELOPE and her convoy (CALCUTTA 2200/10).
4 destroyers to be surrendered.	In view of the necessity of concentrating additional destroyer forces in the Southern part of the North Sea I must ask you to surrender four of those now under your command and that they be sailed for Scapa as early as possible. (1st S.L.2313/10 to F.O. Narvik).
No.	No ships at No. Pier in tact (CALCUTTA 2130/10).
s/m reported.	See U-Boat Campaign.
Operation O.B.	Is postponed a further 24hours. ENTERPRISE, HESPERUS, FLEETWOOD are carrying out separate operations. (F.O. Narvik 2157/10).
Destroyers.	One destroyer is to remain with ULSTER PRINCE. Remainder escorting ULSTER PRINCE and ROYAL SCOTSMAN are to leave their convoys and proceed to Scapa at maximum possible speed. On arrival of N.S. 2 JACKAL and JAVELIN are similarly to proceed to Scapa. (D.O.D. (H)1403/10 to VETERAN, JANUS, NUBIAN, FIREDRAKE, JAVELIN, JACKAL).
PENELOPE.	Your 1155 10th May PENELOPE is ready to sail at 2100 today Friday intow of one tug with ISIS in tow of other tug. She has suffered following casualty and damage from near bomb miss one officer 2 ratings killed, 20 ratings wounded W/T Office temporarily out of action. She has only 300 rounds of A.A. Ammunition remaining. Reference C. in C. Home Fleet's 1608/6 and in view of probable renewal of bombing should convoy be sailed with Polish Destroyer BLYSKAWICA H.M.S. CAMPBELL and WITCH without waiting return of CALCUTTA and ZULU, if weather permits. If weather makes necessary 2 tugs for PENELOPE, ISIS being left behind. (VINDICTIVE 1700/10 to F.O. Narvik).

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Continued).

Narvik Area (Continued).

PENELOPE

My 1700 10th May taking advantage of fine weather, darkness, and in view of almost certain renewal of bombing tomorrow have sailed H.M.S. PENELOPE in tow, H.M.S. IBIS in tow: British ship GMQS (SEA VALOUR) and British ship GBBX (LOCHEE) in convoy. Escort H.M.S. CAMPBELL and H.M.S. WITCH. Convoy keeping following wireless guard, 138 kcs, 253 kcs and routine.
(VINDICTIVE 2210/10).

FURIOUS
GLORIOUS

FURIOUS will be ready to proceed a.m. 11/5 and GLORIOUS a.m. 12/5. (GLORIOUS, 1926/10).

BARDUFOSS
Aerodrome.

Can you now confirm that Bardufoss will be able to receive Gladiators on 15th and that A.A. defences will then be complete. Your estimate when Bardufoss or Skanland ready to receive Hurricane should be expedited if possible as it governs sailing date of GLORIOUS. (Air Ministry 2015/10 to Rupert Force, C.in C. H.F.2314/10).

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS. 10.5.40.
Friday.

Operations.

Kirkenes.

Your 0635/9 not to DEVONSHIRE.
Helsingfors reports similar rumours. Important that Kirkenes should be denied to Germans.
Believed 2 Norwegian battalions there. Your 0635 may mean these have now been reduced.
Suggest Norwegians be urged to reinforce.
DEVONSHIRE is at your disposal for transport.
War Office represent undesirability despatching small British or French detachment as if moved in H.M. Ship it would be immobile and lacking important equipment. Maintenance would also entail added commitment. You may wish send British Army Officer to report to you on situation at Kirkenes. Suggest Norwegian air force be used for reconnaissance East Finmark. (D. of P 2116/9 to F.O. Narvik)

Iceland (Operation Fork)

Landing completed. Troops landed succesfully. De storing commenced (BERWICK 0705/10)
VIGOUR (Force arrived) (BERWICK 0453/10)
BERWICK, GLASGOW, FEARLESS, FORTUNE left Reykjavik (BERWICK 1900/10)
Many landing grounds suitable for use of large a/C's excluding Reykjavik. Purpose no action be taken with Akureyre landing ground (Sturges, Reykjavik 1400/10)

GUARDIAN Sailed from Scapa 2000/10 for Hvalfiord to lay in Sicator nets (D.O.D.(H) 2338/10)

Situation. Report from Col. Sturges, all quiet, inhabitants friendly, etc., Prisoners embarked in GLASGOW (BERWICK, 0930/10)

Submarines.

S/M's off Dutch Coast are to sink without warning any ships north of Texel which are coming from Germany (R.A.(S) 0548/10 to S/M on Patrol, C. inC. Portsmouth 1107/10 to L.25, L.26
SEA WOLF keep to east of 4° 25' E. SNAPPER proceed to area defined on Naud S. by 53° 20' and 53° 10', on E by 4° 25' E and on W. by 4° E (R.A.(S) 0718/10)

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Operations.

SUBMARINES

L.23, L.26 H.28, H.44, H.49, H.50 will shortly leave Portsmouth for Harwich, V.A.S. will assume operational contact from time of leaving Portsmouth until they enter Area A. when Capt S.3 is to take over operational contact (V.A.S.1031/10)
TAKU to report situation (R.A.(S) 1631/10)
Orders to L.26 and WARRIOR 2 to proceed at dawn to 52° 8' N. 1° 53' E. Captain (S)3 will give further orders. (V.A.C's) 1832/10)
Positions of S/M's on patrol (C. in C. Rosyth 1948/10 to VIVIEN, WHITLEY, VALOROUS)

SEVERN

Reports sinking Swedish MONARK of Stockholm under German prize crew 0345/4. Two members of prize crew from cruiser KONIGSBERG reported KONIGSBERG as having been successfully attacked by British aircraft in Bergen. Suggestions for informing our air force if carrying out raids in vicinity of submarines, also more precise guidance to unescorted neutrals in Skagerrak. (S.9., 1957/10)

Signals to S/M's.

Cancellamy 1912/8. Cancellamy 1009/9 (V.A.(S) 1028/10)

Norwegian Naval Units.

The Norwegian Red Cross states that all the crews of the Norwegian warships TRYGG, GARM, HAUK, SNOGG, LYN, ROLF and FRIFF are safe. A report to the paper Gjengangeren states that there were on board the GARM+eight passengers, and they are also safe. It is also stated that the crews of the submarines E.6 and D.3 are also safe. The destroyer STORM went ashore and the crew were saved. ODIN and GYLLER were captured by the Germans in Christiansand; the whaling steamer HVAL 5 was captured by German planes.
(Oslo broadcast, 2845, BST, 10/5)

List of Norwegian naval officers, etc., arrived in fishing ketch VITA from Bergen (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1052/10)

Your 1259. In view of changed situation trust consideration has been given to surrendering the valuable potential in Norwegian M.T.B's which would be efficient fighting units if manned by us, but of uncertain value if manned by Norwegians. Also call attention to Greek MTB's at Vospers, one of which isready.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1547/10)

WAR DIARY.

10.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS(Contd.)

Operations.

Troop Convoys.

Admiralty 1634/7. To economise escorts, sailing of convoys N.S.4 and N.P.4 will be postponed for at least four days. Hoped to arrange for urgent items to be sailed with EMPIRE ABILITY expected to leave Scapa about 20/5 (D.O.D.(H)2236/10)

M.T. Ships.

Owing to increased commitments in other theatres, shortage of M.T. Ships is becoming acute. Request report estimated date on which it will be possible to sail each of the following for U.K. - CYCLOPS, CHARLBURY, LYCAON, BELLEROPHON, MARGOT, CALUMET. (D.O.D. (H) 1222/10)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

KELLY damage

First air escort to return from KELLY reports her down by bow and listed to starboard with starboard forecastle rails awash but being towed bows first. Aircraft left KELLY at 0710 in DKOX 5605, BULLDOG gave course and speed of tow 250° 5 knots. 2 enemy aircraft were sighted and driven off (C.in C. Rosyth 1032/10).

Dutch Coast.

Reduce to moderate despatch and steer for 53° 30'N.3°0'E. (C.in C. Nore 1126/10 to BIRMINGHAM) No need to hurry at present (C.in C. Nore 1447/10). Fly 2 White Ensigns when in submarine areas or in sight of Allied warships. You may be needed on Dutch coast during dark hours tonight returning Humber after any necessary action. Send to Humber [illegible] short of fuel (C.in C. Nore 1137/10 to BIRMINGHAM). BIRMINGHAM and 8 destroyers probably in vicinity Terschelling L.V. own forces must be expected in vicinity of Dutch coast (R.A.(S) 1141/10 to submarines on patrol).

Gold to be removed to U.K.

GALATEA, ARETHUSA to be off Ymuiden at dusk to escort to Southend ships with large consignment of gold (C.in C. Nore 1326/10 to C.S.2). Informing WHITSHED (N.O.I.C. Dover 1850/10).

Be ready at dawn to cover retirement of PRINCESS VICTORIA and escort from 47Q2 to Humber (C.in C. Nore 1512/10 to BIRMINGHAM).

FURY proceed Humber to fuel (HOSTILE 1550/10) KELLY and escort being bombed. No fighters. DKTS 2747. (C.S.18 1550/10).

Request your position course and speed forthwith in order that battle flight may find you. (C.in C. Rosyth 1634/10 to C.S.18). Repeating Position course and speed DKTS 3034 260° 3 knots. (C.S.18 1653/10). Repeating position course and speed. No battle flight yet arrived. Have been bombed and now being shadowed (C.S.18 1713/10).

Enemy aircraft landing troops on beach at Scheveningen. Proceed with all despatch to bombard any aircraft seen there (C.in C.Nore 1640/10 to BIRMINGHAM) Your 1747 (telling her to report situation) cannot reach coast before dark. 5 destroyers with me all must fuel 11/5. My D.G. not effective against new magnetic mines (BIRMINGHAM 2010/10 to C.in C. Nore).

10.5.40
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Dutch coast.

C.S.18 KELLY — Your position was DKTS 4930 second class by cross bearings at 1752. Aircraft instructed to search these if they fail to locate you in DKTS 3034. (C.in C. Rosyth to C.S.18 1810/10).

3 Hudsons now arrived. Request continuous fighter protection from daylight tomorrow Saturday. (C.S.18, 1815/10).

Bottom has been blown out of both boiler rooms of KELLY and patches would be difficult. (C.S.18 2033/10).

BIRMINGHAM — Your 1756 cancel my 1640 (orders to proceed to Scheveningen) Remain to N.W. submarines in area (C.in C.Nore 1935/10).

WHITLEY
VIVIEN. — Cancel my 1146/10. Proceed to arrive position Y early daylight then with all despatch to Sheerness where you will come under orders of C.in C.Nore (C.in C. Rosyth 1814/10).

Identification — of British destroyers approaching Dutch coast (Adty.0829/10, C.in C. Nore 0911/10).

Proceed to Humber with destroyers not detailed for other duties arriving in daylight hours (C.in C. Nore 2241 to BIRMINGHAM).

Before leaving port report estimated position course speed at 0400 in order that air escort may be provided (C.in C. Nore 2318/10 to C.S.2.)

Gold to be moved. — Large quantity of Dutch gold is being embarked in Dutch ships at Ymuiden and should be ready to sail about 2000/10. Cruiser and destroyer escort will be off Ymuiden at dusk but will not enter. Ensure gold sails tonight. (D.O.D.(H) 1324/10 to WHITSHED).

Asking him to arrange for cruiser and destroyer escort for gold (D.O.D.(H) 1336/10 to C.in C.Nore).

Destroyers from W.A. — Ships addressed are placed under orders of C.in C. Nore, and except H.M.S. VENETIA are to proceed to Dover with all despatch, fuelling at Plymouth en route. (A.C.W.A.1953/10 to H.M.S.VIMY, H.M.S. WESSEX, H.M.S. VIVACIOUS, H.M.S. WINDSOR, H.M.S. WALPOLE, H.M.S. VESPER, H.M.S. VENETIA, H.M.S. VERSATILE.

War Diary.

10.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (contd.)

BULLDOG KELLY situation.	Report situation and ships in company (BIRMINGHAM 0050/10 to BULLDOG) KELLY in tow. Am proceeding 7 knots course (^{2}212°) no one in company (BULLDOG 0100/10).
MANCHESTER SHEFFIELD to cover KELLY.	As soon as ready proceed with MANCHESTER and SHEFFIELD to assist to cover withdrawal of KELLY vide my 0104 (C.in C. H.F.0103/10 to F.O.C.18 C.S.).
BIRMINGHAM'S force to cover KELLY.	Unless in contact with enemy concentrate all your force and cover withdrawal of KELLY in tow of BULLDOG towards Rosyth. Position of KELLY at 2347 was 56°47'N. 5°9'E. (C.in C. H.F. 0104/10 to BIRMINGHAM, FURY). My position course speed 215 MBOX 26 - 082 - 28 knots. Am going to assist KELLY and BULLDOG (KANDAHAR 0055/10).
GALLANT and destroyers to assist KELLY.	Proceed to KELLY's assistance. Position. (BIRMINGHAM 0128/10 to GALLANT, MOHAWK, HAVOCK, JANUS, FURY, HYPERION.) What is state of KELLY ? (BIRMINGHAM 0135/10 to BULLDOG).
Maximum air escort asked for.	My 0039/10. Please amend air escort to provide maximum air protection for KELLY (C.in C. H.F. 0122/10, 0125/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).
BULLDOG sinks M.T.B.	One M.T.B sank after ramming me at 2345/9 only superficial damage bulkhead watertight (BULLDOG 0209/10).
KELLY, extent of damage.	KELLY states boiler room and lower mess deck flooded (BULLDOG 0250/10 to BIRMINGHAM).
Re-escorts.	Consider constant really effective fighter protection for KELLY essential and increased surface support desirable if further damage is to be avoided. Can this be sent please (BIRMINGHAM 0255/10 to C.in C. H.F.). Your 0255/10 MANCHESTER and SHEFFIELD sailed 0245. Hudsons have been sent (C.in C. H.F. 0423/10 to BIMRINGHAM). Expect Battle Flight 3 Blenheims about 0600 (C.in C. Rosyth 0506/10 to BULLDOG).
KEITH, BOREAS to join.	KEITH and BOREAS join C.S.2. at the Nore with despatch (F.O.C.Dover 0801/10 to (D) 19, D.D.O.D. 0808/10 to V.A.Dover). They left at 0840 (F.O.C. Dover 0840/10).
BIRMINGHAM'S force under C.in C.Nore.	My 0616/10 BIRMINGHAM and accompanying destroyers are placed under your orders (D.O.D.(H) 0926/10 to C.in C. Nore).

WAR DIARY.

SECRET. 10.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

British Air Activity. AIR

Security Patrol.	2 Small ships sighted 53°31' N 3°54' E 2135/9 6 medium sized lighted ships sighted 2148/9 53° 55' N 4°45' E (HQBC0715/10).
Waalhaven aerodrome.	Near Rotterdam, to be attacked between 2200/10 and 0300/11. (Air Min., 1815/10)
Bergen to be attacked	One section Blenheims is to co-operate with six Skuas leaving Hatston at 0500/11 in order to carry out bombing attack of Bergen. The Blenheims are to arrive at scheduled arrival time for the Skuas over objective and are to maintain a defensive patrol during the attack Skuas are to be escorted on homeward tracks (Donibristle 1945/10). Objectives are patrol tanks at Strudshavn and enemy shipping in harbour (ACOS1300/10).
Co-operation between ships and a/c's.	Re large number of occasions on which air escorts and long range fighters have failed to make contact with H.M. Ships. Asking for steps to be taken to improve co-operation (C. in C. H.F.1702/10)
Enemy air activity.	
Convoy shadowed	WINCHESTER 0357/10 etc.,
CISTULA	Attacked by a/c 10 miles West Capelle (CISTULA 1038/10)
	Help DKTS 4544 (NCCS Block 6 1321/10)
BULL DOG	Bombed DKWY 7050 (BULL DOG 1327/10) are being bombed require immediate assistance DKWY 3050 (BULL DOG 1326/10, 1332/10)
Enemy Air Activity	Enemy are using delay action bombs. If bombing attacks on this country develop all unexploded bombs are to be regarded as dangerous. (Air Min., 1055/10, D.C. 1256/10)
11 crashed a/c's	a/c reports 11 crashed German a/c's on beach South of Ymuiden by entrance to Canal ([illegible] Rad 2109/10)

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.) 10.5.40.
Friday.

MINING.

German Magnetic Mining

German A/C this morning placed magnetic mines in Flushing roads near Ostend and Zeebrugge. All sailings suspended. Having no experience themselves of destroying such mines they request immediate advice and would welcome despatch of British experts. (Brussels No. 125)

Unexplained explosions.

heard in easterly direction a long way off (NOIC Newhaven 0919/10)

It is reported (B.2) that mines are being laid by German aircraft off Calais and Dunkirk and off the S.E. Coast from Lowestoft to Beachy Head. (D.D.I.C. 1450/10)

Mines off Dutch ports.

As far as I can tell mines laid at entrances to ports are magnetic. No signs of any other types of minelaying (NA Hague NOTOO 0650/ 10)

Preparations for minesweeping operations on Dutch and Belgian coasts.

The following movements have been ordered:-
5th M/S.F. from Tyne to Humber
4th M/S.F. from Humber to Harwich
6th M/S.F. is ready to carry out Captain Dangerfields' operation.

2 L.L. trawlers are ready to proceed to Flushing to-day.
(M.S.M.)

German a/c's have laid parachute mines off Ostend and Zeebrugge. Both ports closed. Ask French to send experts to advise Belgians at those ports (DMS2039/10 to V.A. Dover)

Orders to 4th M.S.F. (DMS 1113/10)

10.5.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

SHIPPING.

Dutch and Belgian Ships — Instructions have been issued from Holland and Belgium that all Dutch and Belgian merchant ships bound for Holland, Belgium or Germany are to proceed to the nearest British or Dutch port for instructions. Other Dutch and Belgian ships are to continue their voyages. (BBC broadcast) (D.T.D.1021/10)

British ships — It is reported that there are at present no British merchant ships in any Dutch or Belgian home ports.

Trawling. — My 1313/17. Trawling is prohibited in Firth of Clyde north of the line joining Dunningham Point 55° 19' N., 5° 33' W., and Craigani Point 55° 03.5' N., 5° 03' W. Seine net fishing for white fish in this area is subject to local restrictions. (D.T.D.1236/10)

Darkening ship — Your 1121/22, darkening of neutral ships while under escort of H.M. Ships, approved. (Hd. of M. to VANP 1711/10)

Ocean convoys — Positions etc., (D.C.1925/10)

All British and Norwegian Ships in Dutch and Belgian Ports are to be sailed to United Kingdom as soon as possible.
Too much attention should not be paid to reports of enemy minelaying. (D.T.D.0952/10)

NOTE. — Sent to Hague, to pass to Amsterdam, Antwerp and Rotterdam.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.

Twelve de-gaussed Merchant Vessels will be leaving Antwerp for the Downs at 0500 May 11th
Arrange escort as far as possible.
(Air Min., 1950/10 to HQCC)

Miscellaneous.

Sheerness. — Request it be added to list of areas to be evacuated. (C. in C. Nore, 1000/10)
Matter will be considered by War Cabinet in so far as it effects all vulnerable areas East Coast (D. of L.D. 2223/10)

WAR DIARY.

10.5.40.
Friday.

WEATHER.

0500 B.S.T.

Area.	Wind.	Visibility	Outlook.
North Sea.	W., strong in N., variable light in S.	Mainly good coastal haze in S.	Wind veering N.W. in N.
Channel and W. Approaches	N.E., light or moderate.	Mainly good, mist patches on French coast.	Similar.
Horns Reef.	Westerly light.	Poor.	Wind freshening visibility improving.
West Coast Norway.	Variable fresh in S., S.W. fresh or strong in N.	Moderate or poor in S., moderate or good in N.	Wind becoming westerly, fresh. Visibility improving.

10.5.40
Friday

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

(A) Holland has requested our assistance and has instructed their Naval authorities to get into touch with ours.

(B) Belgium has called upon us to implement our guarantees.

(C) You are to act accordingly.

(D) French Naval Authorities are being informed similarly.

(D.O.D.(F) 0948/10 to C's in C. (Abroad).

North Atlantic.

French Positions. Convoys, patrols, ships on passage. 1200/10 (D.C.0128/10).
French sloop D'ENTRECASTEAUX sailed Dakar 9/5, will operate morning 12/5 south of Gomera. (F.O.C.N.A. 1112/10).

Dutch Shipping. Dutch shipping in ports of Portugal being held up owing to Shippers withdrawing cargoes bound for Belgium and Netherlands. Can I give any re-assurance.
(N.C.S.O.Lisbon 1630/10).

South Atlantic.

Italian Ships. Add to my 2147/10, re Italian ship DUCHESSA D'AOSTA. Prime Minister has personally authorised reasonable means of delaying ship to be exercised. Italian ship MONTE SANTO is also in Durban. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2252/10).

Dutch and Belgian Ships. Your 1021 10th May. Request confirmation that Dutch and Belgian Merchant Ships bound for Holland, Belgium or Germany should proceed nearest British or French Port for instructions.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1918/10).

10. 3. 40
Friday

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS (Continued).

Mediterranean.

WARSPITE) WARSPITE) VOYAGER) VENDETTA.)	32°N, 28°E, on passage to Alexandria (D.C.0655/10).
GRAMPUS.	34°N, 24°E on passage to Malta (D.C.0655/10).
CLANRANALD.	Sabotage (16/2/40 at Suez) See Mediterranean volume.
Turkish Cooperation.	Desired to invite Turkish officers to Malta to see generaly system operating a British defended post. Request War Office approval be obtained. G.O.C. Troops, Malta, consurs. (C. in C. Med. 1007/10).
PROTECTOR.	See Narvik Area.
DANUBE.	German shipping firms have been ordered to stop German oil tankers from going down the Danube (Belgrade to Daily Express).

FOREIGN STATIONS (Continued).

East Indies.

U.S.2. Position see M.S.M, Your 0432/9, sailings for troops. Adequate cover will be provided on East Indies Station. (C. in C. E.I. 11512/10 to A.C.N.B.).

Dutch Ships. To be delayed sailing. (C. in C. E.I. 0803/10)

Australia.

U.S.3. Position see M.S.M.

China.

F.E.S.S. Cancel my 0724/10, re formation of F.E.S.S. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 14502/10, to Admiralty for D.N.I.).

D.F. Station. Reported by Marconi engineer that Direction Island H/F D/F station is ready for service. Request early arrangement to send watchkeepers (D.D.I.C. to C. in C. China1717/10).

America & West Indies.

Dutch West Indies. Ref. to F.O. tel. No.19 and Bermuda 0947. All Germans on the islands including women were arrested by six a.m./10. All German ships captured and crews removed. My impression situation is fully in hand and landing party of Allied troops would not be welcomed. (Consul, Willemstad, Dutch W. Indies, 1410/10).

Offer of 2 destroyers. By Canadian Government for offensive actionin West Indies area. (C.N.S. Ottawa 1449/10).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS 10.5.40.
Friday.

Home Commands.

POLARIS. Re-German trawler. Admiralty 1917/3. To preserve secrecy proposed that vessels be renamed. Early action is required for purposes of mails, etc., (A.C.O.S.1830/10)

DUISBERG. Informed Rugen station she had arrived Tallinn 9/5 and reported heavy ice.

ELISABETH BORNHOFEN. Ordered by W/T on 10/5 to load at Danzig. (I.C., 0447/10)

America and West Indies.

PATRICIA
ALLEMANIA
HENRY HORN Attempted scuttling, unsuccessful. (Reuter Willenstad, Dutch West Indies 1935/10)

GOSLAR Georgetown reports scuttled Paramaribo (A.2) (S.O.I. Kingston 1936/10)

North Atlantic.

KLAUS SCHOKE
LUISE BORNHOFEN Have now anchored off the harbour of Horta, Azores (A.1)

GERMANIA Tanker, attempting to sell her cargo of petrol. (A.1) (I.C., 0447/40)

CORRIENTES. Canary Islands (Las Palmas) damaged and rendered unseaworthy by an internal explosion, origin unknown, and has been moved with OSTMARK to inner harbour 10/5 (I.C. 0447/40)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.) 10.5.40. Friday.

South Atlantic.

WINDHUK. At Santos, Brazil, has been re-attached.

Montevideo reports 1210/10 a German shipping agent expected a German ship there on 10/5. (C. in C. S.A. 1750/10). Only ship known to be at large is WINNETOU, which left Las Palmas 9/4 and not since reported. (I.C.0447/40).

Mediterranean.

ARKADIA. Arrived Braila 9/5 (GALATA 1034/10)

Foreign Stations.

The following German merchant ships were in Dutch Colonial Ports on May 10:-

Dutch East Indies.

Padang.	BITTERFELD	7657
	FRANKEN	7789
	RHEINLAND	6622
	SCHECK	2191
	WUPPERTAL	6737
Sabang.	LINDENFELS	8457
	MONI RICKMERS	5272
	SOPHIE RICKMERS	7033
	WASGENWALD	4990
	WERDENFELS	6318
Batavia.	NORDMARK	7750
	RENDSBURG	6200
	VOGTLAND	6608
Tjilitjap	STASSFURT	7395
Surabaya.	CASSEL	6047
	ESSEN	5158
	NAUMBERG	5878
Macassar.	SCHEER	8298
Menado.	FRIEDRUN	2464

Dutch West Indies:-

Aruba	ANTILLA	4406
Curacao.	ALEMANIA	1383

RATE....

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS 10.5.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Dutch West Indies (Contd.)

Curacao.

	ESTE	7915
	FRISIA	561
	HENRY HORN	3164
	KARIBIA	428
	PATRICIA	3979
VANCOUVER	VANCOUVER	8269

Dutch Guiana.

Paramaribo.	GOSLAR	6040

U. BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked

HENRY WOODHALL sunk	British (625 tons) in ballast Yarmouth to Saham was sunk by a mine at 1231/10, North of Spurn Point. 9 survivors 1 dead, 4 missing out of crew of 12 and 2 soldiers.
VEAL	5 survivors have been picked up from Estonian ? VEAL reported mined off West Hinder Buoy.

S/M's Reported.

	Estimated disposition (D.D.I.C.1149/10)
1121	55° 12' N., 1° 15' W 070° 13' course 360? (A.S.)
no time.	70°26' N., 22°12'E in Soro Sound. Report from F.O. Narvik (B.3)

War diary. 11.5.40.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Low Countries

Demolition parties were landed last night 10/11 May at Antwerp, Flushing, Hook of Holland and Ymuiden by BRILLIANT, VERITY, WILD SWAN and WHITSHED respectively. WHITSHED was bombed and had some casualties; minor damage was caused to the destroyer and her remaining ammunition is flooded, but she reports having brought down one or possibly 2 aircraft. She states that the Dutch arrangements for demolition are well thought out.

PRINCESS VICTORIA laid mines off Ymuiden last night, escorted by ESK, EXPRESS and INTREPID.

Blockships are being held in readiness to proceed to Ostend and Zeebrugge. The Germans have laid magnetic mines in both these ports, and both are closed.

BIRMINGHAM and 3 destroyers are returning to the Humber from the Dutch coast. HYPERION and HAVOC have been detached to assist the Dutch in engaging German forces at Waalhaven aerodrome near Rotterdam. WILD SWAN and WYVERN are also assisting.

C.S.2 in GALATEA with ARETHUSA, KEITH and BOREAS escorted 2 merchant ships with bullion, for Southend, which left Ymuiden at 0220/11.

8 destroyers from the Western Approaches and 4 from Rosyth are being placed under the orders of C. in C. Nore.

British and French submarines are concentrated off the Dutch coast. German submarines have been reported off Terschelling.

The Military Mission disembarked at Flushing.

It is reported that the enemy are trying to get mechanised units into ships at Stavoren (east of Zuyder Zee) with the apparent intention of landing in neighbourhood of Amsterdam.

The Germans continued to drop parachute troops in considerable numbers, also to land troops at aerodromes temporarily occupied. CODRINGTON and Dutch S.S. IRIS were unsuccessfully bombed off Hook, and Dutch S.S. PRINS WILLEN VAN ORANJE was hit off Flushing.

British and Allied subjects, women, children are being evacuated from Scheveningen in trawlers, escorted by HEREWARD. Arrangements have been made for evacuation from Ostend, if necessary.

Various Dutch warships are being sent to the

SITUATION REPORT (contd.)

British Air Activity

Waalhaven aerodrome, near Rotterdam was bombed by our aircraft consistently between 2200/10 and 0300/11. The Dutch were asked to retake it at 0305/11.

5 Skuas bombed the aerodrome at Bergen today and set the fuel tanks at FLOVVAASPYNT on fire.

KELLY, in tow of FURY and escorted by KANDAHAR and covered by C.S.18 in MANCHESTER with SHEFFIELD is returning to Rosyth at about 3 knots. She was attacked from the air, but not hit. Two submarines which were shadowing her were attacked by her air escort. Tugs have been sent to her, as she is making no progress.

Narvik Area.

PENELOPE, which sailed at 2300/10 in tow of a tug, with ISIS, in tow of another, was bombed and had some casualties caused by a near miss.

COXWOLD is now seaworthy and is ready to sail for Narvik from Scapa with the remainder of her cargo of petrol.

There was considerable bombing in the Narvik area. VANSITTART was hit pm/10th and had 2 guns and her W/T put out of action and sustained casualties 2 officers killed and 1 wounded.

British reinforcements have arrived in the Narvik area.

Operation OB is arranged for 0100/13.

Mosjoen, Bodo, Mo.

The disembarkation of the independent company at Bodo from S.S. ROYAL SCOTSMAN was completed during the night 10/11.

ENTERPRISE, CAIRO, FLEETWOOD and HESPERUS are proceeding now to effect a landing at Mo or Bodo am/12.

The enemy occupy Mosjoen. They have been advancing by sea land and aircraft, coasting steamers being escorted by aircraft.

War Diary.

11.5.40.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT (Contd.)

Minelaying Operation

The French submarine RUBIS has completed her minelaying operation at the entrance to the Skagerrak.

Enemy Air Activity off U.K.

Reconnaissance flights were made at intervals during the day off the S. and E. coasts, particularly off Orfordness and Harwich during the forenoon, but no attacks on shipping have been reported.

Italy

It is reported from Angora that the Turkish Government has learnt from a well disposed neutral source that Italy has ceded 20 submarines to Germany in return for 100 latest aircraft. Also that crews for at least 2 submarines have arrived in Italy.

Dutch West Indies

CARADOC and H.M.C.S. FRASER left Kingston 1230/11 with 2 coys. K.S.L.I. and S.S. JAMAICA PLANTER with M.T. at 1330, for Willemstad, Curacao. DESPATCH has arrived there, but at the request of the Governor no landing has taken place.

The French cruiser PRIMAUGUET arrived at Aruba pm/10 and landed detachments.

War Diary

11.5.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Destroyers

Your 2311/10. I fully appreciate the situation and will do the best I can. Fresh commitments are continually arising and for this reason I must keep a very small margin to work on. At the moment there is not a single destroyer available here as a screen for Capital Ships if required. For the time being I do not think I can send any more destroyers South than those mentioned in my 1910/10/5 but will do so as soon as possible. I do think it important to get flotillas or at least divisions into some semblance of cohesion for work down South.
(C. in C., H.F., 1528/11).

War Diary

11.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Precautions in U.K.

Eastchurch Aerodrome — Eastchurch aerodrome and Sheppy Island are held by only about 100 men, but 1000 unarmed Polish airmen are in the island. Asking for loan of 750 rifles for 10 days: none otherwise available (C. in C., Nore, 1217/11).

H.49, H.50. — Your object is to attack enemy warships and transports should they attempt to reach East coast of England. (Capt. S.3 1005/11).

Sheerness — Will be included as evacuable area etc. (A.C.N.S. 2125/11).

German Parachute Troops — Summary of tactics employed (Adty. 1840/11).

Possibility of Raid — On Thames Estuary by German troops either airborne or Seaborne. Precautions to be taken. (C. in C. Nore, 1145/11).

Delay action bombs — Delay may be up to one week, etc. Evidence bombs being dropped in pairs, one instantaneous, one delay (Air Min. 1130/11).

War Diary

11.5.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

KELLY

Battle Flight of 3 Hudsons to be at DKWY 4135 at 0430/11. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0006/11 to C.S.18).

Aircraft sent to search to eastward of you failed rejoin contact owing to darkness. Report searched 50 miles to eastward to a width of 30 miles, nothing seen. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0012/11).

Request weather report for KELLY (F.O., 18 C.S. 0406/11).

Speed of advance now below 3 knots. A tug if available might do better. Vessel difficult to control due to Yawing. Consider danger to cruisers from submarine attack under these conditions a very real one and recommend withdrawal of cruisers. (C.S.18, 0410/11 to C. in C., H.F.).

Expect to arrive 1045. Have following wounded ratings from KELLY, 13 cot cases, 4 serious, 6 non-cot cases. (DANDAHAR, 0502/11).

My 0410/11. In view of weather and report from capt (D)5, that KELLY is only just holding together request 2 ocean tugs be sent. (C.S.18 0551/11).

Your 0410/11. No necessity to remain in close proximity to KELLY as long as air escort is present, but you should keep sufficiently near to provide cover from surface forces using high speed. (C. in C., H.F., 0638/11 to C.S.18).

KANDAHAR ordered to refuel and rejoin KELLY as soon as possible. (C. in C., H.F. 0641/11).

18 C.S. 0410/11. Request tug may be sent to KELLY. (C. in C., H.F. 0644/11 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Tow parted at 0600. FURY still trying to pass fresh tow; Wind N.W., moderate. (C.S.18 0735/11). 2 tugs sailed (C. in C., Rosyth, 1129/11).

If KELLY or any ship in company breaks W/T silence for another reason request brief report by signal of proceedings on night of 9th-10th May. (C. in C., H.F. 1009/11).

War Diary

11.5.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (contd.)

KELLY (Contd.)

Your 0410/11. No necessity to remain in close proximity to KELLY as long as air escort is present, but keep near enough to provide cover for surface forces using high speed. (C. in C., H.F. 0638/11 to F.O.C. 18 C.S.).

In view of weather and report from Capt. (D)5 that KELLY is only just holding together request 2 ocean tugs be sent (C.S.18 0551/11).

Cruiser and destroyers bombed. No hits. Our aircraft reports at least 2 submarines in vicinity. My position DKDN 1453 KELLY now in tow of FURY has made no progress since 0600 (F.O.C. 18 C.S. 1505/11).

Bottom has been blown out of both boiler rooms of KELLY and patches would be difficult. (F.O.C. 18 C.S. 2033/10).

Attacks on U-boats by destroyers and aircraft screening KELLY 1437/11, 1439/11. Also re bombing by enemy aircraft (Donibristle 1810/11).

Send 3 Hudsons to escort (Donibristle 1510/11).

War Diary

11.5.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation XD (Demolition parties)

Situation. Flushing quiet. Roads empty of (?) refugees. Demolition party remaining ashore. Am returning to Dover. Expected time of arrival L045.

(VERITY 0704/11).

Military demolition party reports C.O. and one other missing since last night and placing of charges not yet commenced. They have been ordered to get into touch with Dutch Military and commence placing as soon as possible. Placing of charges by Naval demolition party at Hook is well in hand.
Situation in Rotterdam obscure. Immediate neighbourhood of Hook in control of the Dutch with exception of few isolated parachutist troops and only request from local authorities has been for A/A support.
In view of presence of magnetic mines in river to Rotterdam do not intend to move ships above Hook.

(HYPERION 1030/11 to Admiralty)

HYPERION HAVOCK — Your 1228. H.M.S. HYPERION and H.M.S. HAVOVK alongisde. Placing the parcel charged for local demolition should be completed by 1600. Little air activity. Local isolated Groups of German troops in the vicinity. No details of Rotterdam party available. Am proceeding to bombard the wood to eastward of town at request of the Dutch Authorities (WILDSWAN 1324/11)

HYPERION — Military Demolition Party returned with full number. Dutch Military Authorities will not allow charge to be prepared or placed and have requested party stand by at the Hook. Officer Commanding estimates approximately the Eastern third of Rotterdam is held by the Germans including Waal Haven Aerodrome. Naval Demolition party has completed preparations and distribution of charge for the various objectives at the Hook but authorities will not allow them to be placed.

(HYPERION 1640/11)

WHITSHED — Damage and casualties from a/c bombing, 1 officer 7 ratings seriously wounddd., 5 missing drownded, minor structural damage. Steering gear correct Ammunition flooded

(WHITSHED 0315/11)

War Diary.

11.5.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operation XD (Demolition parties)

WILD SWAN — Your 1250/11. WILD SWAN who is extra well degaussed is to proceed to Rotterdam to cooperate (VCNS /11)

Belgian Govt. agree. — British Minister Brussels reports 2046. Operation XD Belgian Government agree and are prepared to collaborate. (DN1 0427/12 to V.A.Dover)

Operation F.A. Dunkirk.

VIMIERA WESTMINSTER. — Left for operation F.A. (V.A.Dover 0607/11)

Operation LYSTER. — Keep steam at 4 hours' notice coming to immediate notice by 0800/12 (DOD (4) 1138/11 to blockships)

Royal Family — Your Lo50/11. Arc times BST. (DC 1601/11 to N.A.Hague)

WAR DIARY.

11th May, 1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations.

Dutch Coast.

WIVERN.

H.M.S. WIVERN is proceeding to Flushing to land mission. Parachite troops are in close vicinity and communications to the Hague impracticable. Dutch authorities have cancelled request to Bombard Waalhaven Aerodrome.
(WILD SWAN 0541/11)

Orders to VIVIEN, WHITLEY.

(A) When fuelled and ready for sea proceed to patrol eastward of Brown ridge. You may be needed to support destroyers on Dutch Coast, perhaps to escort Dutch S.S. TITUS or to bring refugees from Ymuiden. C.O's are to visit C.S.2 before sailing to obtain latest information available.
(B) British submarines are in area north of 52° 45' and in vicinity of CPWY 2525.
(C) WILD SWAN, WIVERN, HYPERION and HAVOCK are at Hook of Holland VERITY and BRILLIANT at Flushing and Antwerp respectively.
(D) Fly 2 white ensigns when in sight of Dutch.
1122/11.

IMMEDIATE. VERY URGENT.
Situation very critical send us as many Warships as possible to fire at planes landing on the beach all possible aireraft co-operate.
(N.A. Hague 1215/11 to Adty.)

Recognition Signals.

My 0029 - Another unknown Destroyer when challenged ships which are believed to be Dutch have replied OEM with bright blue light.
(ARETHUSA 0108/11 to C.in C.Nore.)
My 0029 - Believed to be Dutch (ARETHUSA 0046/11)
Note 0029 reported one destroyer one S/m sighted.

Dutch ask for destroyers.

Following received from N.A. Hague:-
URGENT. No news of the two British destroyers promised to co-operate with the Dutch. Street fighting in Rotterdam situation precarious. Dutch ask that destroyers should go up and assist. Can instructions be given to WILD SWAN to do what she can if local Dutch Naval authorities advise that this is possible? Fighters should be in attendance.
1105/40
Can suitable ship be sent to Ymuiden this evening to embark about 100 British and French Nationals, mostly women. If so, please state name of ship time of arrival. This is urgent as it is reported that Germans have started indiscriminate bombing at Delft.
1110/40
Report just received that oil tanks at Rotterdam in hands of Germans. Report not yet very definite.
1113/40.
(D.D.I.C. 1213/11 to C.in C.Nore, V.A. Dover.)

WAR DIARY. 11th May, 1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS. (Contd.)
Operations.

Dutch Coast.

Urgent my 1105 2 British destroyers now reported at Haa K. Communications are bad and have sent message to Senior Officers destroyers pointing out urgency of giving all possible help at Rotterdam and he must use his discretion after obtaining all available ?

(N.A. Hague No. T.O.O. Rec.1343/11)

Consul General Rotterdam requests 2 destroyers proceed Rotterdam. In view of presence of magnetic mines vide H.M.S. WILD SWAN's 0810 do not intend to comply without your approval.

(HYPERION 1250/11. to Adty.)

Situation seems critical here street fighting most urgent to send fighters everything depends on stopping more troops landing from aircraft.

(2 X 2 No.T.O.O. Rec.1315/11 to D.N.L.O.)

Give all support practicable but the moment for your withdrawal must be entirely at your discretion.

(C.in C.Nore 1413/11 to HYPERION, HAVOCK.)

Hague. Troops still landing on beach. Situation critical and depends on large numbers of fighters and destroyers off coast. (N.A.Hague 1510/11)

Landing of Marines. 2 destroyers from Dover to embark 200 R.M. and take them to Hook to arrive if possible at dawn.
(V.C.N.S.1936/11.)
Could troops with light equipment be landed at Hook or thereabouts, without enemy opposition, at dawn 12/5 from a destroyer?
(D.O.D.(H)1743/11 to HYBERION, WILD SWAN.)
Reply, Yes unless situation deteriorates rapidly. HAVOCK will patrol off entrance during night, HYPERION, WILD SWAN remaining in harbour (HYPERION 1930/11).
Following for O.C.R.M. Force begins:-
(a) One Battalion strength about 750 expected to arrive Hook dawn 13th May.
(b) Collect as much motor transport as you can.
(c) Further signal will be made with regard to your re-embarkation. Ends.

(D.O.D.(H)2341/11 to VERITY)
VERITY, VENOMOUS left Dover 2345 for Hook with landing parties of R.M. arriving after daylight.
(N.O.I.C. Dover 0005/12)

WAR DIARY. 11th May, 1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS. (Contd.)

Operations.

Dutch Coast.

Landing of Marines. (continued)

IMMEDIATE My 1936/11.
A. Object of this force is to hold the landing place at the Hook so that further landings can take place unopposed.
B. O.C. Royal Marine Force should get into touch with S.N.O. Hook and local authorities in order to obtain latest information.
C. Force has three days rations with it. It is intended to re-embark it before the end of the period.
(C.N.S.2121/11 to V.A.Dover.)

Your 1936 11th May H.M.S. WILD SWAN will be at Hook Whistle Buoy by 0400 zone minus one tomorrow Sunday to meet destroyer. Air protection considered most advisable during disembarkation. (HYPERION 2025/11).

Situation.

Situation on the whole seems easier but in some towns 5th Column combining with troops landed from aircraft. Dutch troops very tired and much scattered. Strongly urge sending men one British battalion or Marines to Ymuiden. This would cheer the Dutch and consequent relief if ever that number of their troops would be helped, for presence of British fighters this afternoon has had considerable moral effect. Military and Air Attaches agree.
(N.A. Hague 1645/11.)

Evacuation of Refugees.

WHITLEY to enter Ymuiden as soon as practicable after dark to embark about 100 British and French Nationals mostly women Fly 2 white ensigns when entering. D1 and GRIFFEN to place themselves under orders of C.S.2 after bombardment for escort of WHITLEY and S.S. PERSEUS if she sails.
(C.in C. Nore 1609/11.)

Your 1110, am sending WHITLEY at nightfall. Very desirable refugees from Holland and Belgium should sail in merchant ships if possible. Most difficult to send warships. (C.in C. Nore 1616/11 to Adty.)

Minesweeping at Flushing.

Your 1045/11. Reporting action taken (Trawlers etc. being sent, Dutch N.A. arranging for 8 Dutch wooden trawlers to be sent to Portsmouth to fit magnetic sweep etc. (R.A.M.L.1617/11 to N.A. Hague.)

Situation.

I. Main Bridge over river Maas at Rotterdam has been blown up.
II. Waalhaven Aerodrome is again in German hands.
III. Legation have asked our Air Ministry to bombard Aerodrome.
IV. Germans have no communications with each other across the river.
(Netherlands Legation 1715/11.)

WAR DIARY. 11th May, 1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS. (Contd.)

Operations.

Dutch Coast.

WHITLEY. If German landings continue after dark by parachute flare you are not to withdraw to comply with my 1609 (evacuation of refugees). Report if more ships needed (C.in C. Nore 1759/11).

VALOROUS HEREWARD. May be needed to sail at 1930 to take troops to Hook. If not, sail at dawn 12/5 to relieve HYPERION and HAVOCK who operate in Hook or on coast to E. where troops were landed today from a/cs. Fly 2 White Ensigns when in sight of Dutch coast (C.in C.Nore 1816 /11).

HYPERION. Your (? My) 1640/11. Request for destroyers to proceed to Rotterdam now cancelled by Naval Commander, Hook (HYPERION 1835/11.)

German landings. Germans thought to have landed on beaches from Hook to Ymuiden mainly Scheveningen both sides of pier and from there South to Hook. Ships can get close in shore. (C.in C.Nore 1819/11 to Capt.(D)1, HAVOCK, HYPERION.)

FURY. Bombed by a/c's.048 DKDN 38 (FURY 1430/11)
Bombed (FURY 1724/11)

HAVOCK. Bombed by 3 a/c's. (HAVOCK 1430/11)
My 1430 No hits (HAVOCK 1451/11).

Evacuation of Refugees. 2 French destroyers being sent to Ymuiden to evacuate French refugees. (C.in C. Nore 1915/11).

VIVIEN. Delay experienced in locating port. Expect to enter 2315 (VIVIEN 2250/11).

Ships on the coast. Following ships will probably be operating off Hook of Holland and Brown Ridge tomorrow Sunday:-

CODRINGTON	VALOROUS	VIMY
GRIFFIN	HEREWARD	WINDSOR
HYPERION	MOHAWK	VIVACIOUS
HAVOCK	JANUS	VENETIA
VERITY	VENOMOUS	WILD SWAN

(C.in C. Nore 2359/11.)

Expect to arrive off Hook of Holland 1900.
Join me there.
(Capt.(D)1 1509/11 to VIVIEN, WHITLEY)

VALOROUS and HEREWARD leave Sheerness dawn for Hook relieving HYPERION and HAVOCK when they need fuel. Distribute these four as necessary between Hook and Ymuiden where Germans said to be landing today. Rejoin them yourself when C S 2 is within 60 miles of Harwich. Report if you need more ships. Withdraw if air attacks too heavy.

(C.in C. Nore 1930/11 to D1.)

HOME COMMANDS. (Contd.)

Operations.

Dutch Coast.

HAVOCK
WILD SWAN. H.M.S. HAVOCK patrolling between Hook and Ymuiden endeavouring to destroy German troops seen to land by parachute flares and to deal with further landings. H.M.S. WILD SWAN completed bombardment on Wood close eastward of Hook. Both at request of local authorities.
(HYPERION 1440/11)

Your 1116 11th May and Capt.(D) 19 1100. Position 1300. C P W X Y 0445 speed 8 knots. H.M.S. BOREAS and s.s. IRIS in company. PERSEUS not seen. Intend to anchor as convenient during dark hours. (ARETHUSA 1312/11.)

Following from N.A. The Hague begins:-
Situation very critical send us as many warships as possible to fire at planes landing on the beach all possible aircraft co-operate Ends.
Do all you can to co-operate.
(D.O.D.(H) 1638/11 to HYPERION.)

Your 1759. No landing since 1900. No activity visible on foreshore. Do not consider more ships needed at present. Have not yet met H.M.S. VIVIEN but am patrolling between Scheveningen and Hook.
(Capt. (D)1, 2026/11.)

VIVACIOUS
VENETIA
VIMY
WINDSOR Sail VIVACIOUS VENETIA from Harwich and VIMY and and WINDSOR from Dover at daylight 12/5 for Maas Light Vessel to arrive at R.V. at 1200.
They are to be prepared either to enter New Waterway at Hook of Holland in support of Dutch, or act under orders of D.1., or Senior Officer at Hook of Holland in repelling enemy air landings on beach from Hook to Ymuiden mainly near Scheveningen.
Ships near Dutch coast to fly two white ensigns.
(C.in C. Nore 2252/11.)

No sign of parachute landings. C.in C's message 1609 and 1759 no sign of landing by parachute and flare. Am patrolling coast towards Ymuiden. Request rendezvous with H.M.S. WHITLEY and other ships to be escorted.
(Capt.(D) 1 2232/11 to F.O.C.2 C.S.)

Destroyers off Hook. From daylight tomorrow Sunday 4 or more destroyers under D 1 will operate from Hook to the eastwards wherever Germans are landing. I anticipate air support will be essential for D.1's success.
(C.in C. Nore 2259/11)

INTERCEPT. Your 2011. H.M.S. VIVIEN and H.M.S. WHITLEY are both evacuating personnel from Ymuiden under my orders as directed by C.in C. Nore.
(C.S.2 2145/11 to Capt.(D)1, VIVIEN)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Low Countries.

ARETHUSA) KEITH) BOREAS) — Proceed to Sheerness to fuel (C. in C., Nore 1116/11). ARETHUSA BOREAS escorting S.S. IRIS (see Air), KEITH, HEEMSKIRK (Dutch warship) escorting S.S. PERSEUS, S.S. TITUS not ready before pm/11 (C.S.2 0221/11).

MOHAWK) JANUS) — To patrol near Broom Ridge 0500/12 until further orders (C. in C., Nore, 1841/11).

KEITH) BOREAS) — Request they be returned to Dover as soon as they can be spared. (F.O.C. Dover, 1440/11 to C. in C., Nore, C.S.2).

Dutch Naval Forces

Five Dutch submarines one Dutch destroyer escorted by guard ship from Flushing one Dutch submarine, 2 Dutch destroyers from Rotterdam for Downs position uncertain. (H.Q. No 16 Group 0045/11).

HEEMSKERK — Order HEEMSKERK (Flotilla leader) to Downs. (C. in C., Nore 1116/11, D.D.I.C. 0320/11).

SUMATRA) VAN GELLER) — Dutch Admiralty report SUMATRA (cruiser) departs night 10/11 from Wielingen to Humber. Minesweeper VAN GELLER to Downs. (D.D.I.C. 0320/11) .

Submarines 0.9, 0.10. — Dutch Adty. report they will try to enter Naval Base Den Helder. Inform British warships in vicinity (D.D.I.C. 0332/11 to C. in C. Nore,)

Your 2247/10 (Dutch submarines and destroyers) where should these vessels be sent from Downs. (C. in C., Nore, 0901/11).

J. VAN HEEMSKERK, S.S.TITUS — My position 052° 10' North 002° 07' East making 11½ knots uncompleted Netherlands Coast Defence Ship JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK and Dutch ship TITUS in company no sign of PERSEUS possibly not yet sailed. (Capt. (D)19. 1100/11).

HOME COMMANDS

Dutch Naval Forces (contd.)

Submarines 021, 022, ISAAC STEERS

N.O.I.C. Ramsgate reports Dutch Tug ZWARTZEE with destroyer ISAAC STEERS in tow. Tug SCHEDT and submarines 021 and 22 under own power arrived in Downs. (V.A. Dover, 1255/11).

Disposal in U.K.

Your 1125/11 Dutch Warships which are fit for service will remain under the orders of the Dutch Authorities and will continue to work from Dutch Ports for the present.

SUMATRA, now proceeding to Humber is in need of refit and her case is being considered separately.

The question of Dutch Submarines is under discussion. (Adty 1521/11 to C. in C., Nore).

HEEMSKERK

Yacht WARRIOR 2 has taken her over to lead her to Downs (Capt.(D)19 1505/11). Her navigation arrangements are quite unreliable. Intend to anchor her near Torgne 1540/11. (Capt.(D)19 1325/11).

WAR DIARY. 11.5.1940
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik.

GRAFTON
BURZA
BLYSKAWICA — Left Skjel Fiord 2200/10 for Scapa (F.O. Narvik 0959/11).

Destroyers. — Send JAGUAR and one Tribal back to Scapa forthwith at best speed (C. in C. H.F. 0929/11 to V.A.A.).

PENELOPE. — ESCORT to reinforce screen (C. in C. H.F. 1406/11) F.O.C. 20 C.S. to remain with PENELOPE until relieved by CALCUTTA (F.O. Narvik 1445/11).
Fighter protection can be given to ENTERPRISE and PENELOPE until 0900 only 12/5 if Operation O.B. is carried out (R.A.A.2046/11).

ESKIMO. — Is it practicable for ESKIMO to be towed to Lavang Fiord. If so Skjel Fiord can be evacuated (F.O. Narvik 1835/11).

BEDOUIN — Proceed to Scapa at best speed (F.O. Narvik 2004/11).
She sailed at 2340 (BEDOUIN 2341/11).

Situation Aerodromes N.S.3. — No important developments Narvik area (W.O.0240/11).
See Aircraft carriers.
Intend sailing N.S.3. 2100/11. Names of ships etc. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1320/11).

German destroyers. — Your 1603/10 Enquiry regarding Master of NORTH CONNWALL's Observations at Narvik. Captain states: First German destroyers arrived Narvik at 0430/9/4. Three in number, also one or two patrolling outside which did not come in. Saw no distinguishing marks or numbers but funnels were painted yellow. Was subsequently a prisoner and saw no more. (A.N.I. 1643/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

Gold. — Norwegian Government want 20 tons of gold removed to U.K. (R.A. Narvik 1700/11).

Convoys. — For Narvik area should be sailed for Harstad via Andenes and Vaags Fiord unless otherwise ordered by F.O. Narvik (F.O. Narvik 1031/11).

Tromso. — Visit of one of H.M. Ships to Tromso would have valuable moral effect (F.O. Narvik 0301/11)

11.5.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik (Continued).

Aerodromes. Reference 0119/11 from R.A. Narvik. I have still no clear indication from you as to whether or not you have an aerodrome fit for Hurricanes to land on and if so by what date it will be ready. You have now been asked for this information three times. Essential you should report immediately on receipt of this signal. (Air Ministry 1910/11 to F.O. Narvik).

Operation O B will take place at 0100 Monday 13th May ships addressed are to be off Ballangen at 1000 tomorrow Sunday V.A.(A) is requested to provide maximum fighter protection from that time. (F.O. Narvik 2209/11 to V.A.(A):
H.M.S. AURORA: H.M.S. EFFINGHAM:
H.M.S. VINDICTIVE: H.M.S. PROTECTOR:
H.M.S. RESOLUTION: H.M.S. HAVELOCK: H.M.S.
SOMALI: H.M.S. FAME: H.M.S. BASILISK:
H.M.S. WREN:

Convoys. In order to economise in escorts and in merchant shipping, it is hoped to institute regular convoy sailings in the near future.
(D. of P.1508/11 to F.O. Narvik).

Mosjoen, Bodo, Mo.

ZULU. Return to Mosjoen to help Gubbins to establish himself wherever he wishes to go (F.O. Narvik 0551/11).
Indicate your position. Has Mo. been evacuated (F.O. Narvik 0934/11 to ZULU).

German landings. INTERCEPT. Norwegian source reports (a) One large ship unloading south of Lardalsoen 066° 14' north 013° 21' east (b) Flying boats on water south of Hemdos.
(F.O. Narvik 2151/11 to ENTERPRISE).

Bofors guns. My 1443/7 were the two Bofors guns and crews transferred from Mosjoen to Bodo in accordance with Admiralty's 1858/6.
(C. in C. H.F. 2246/11 to VETERAN).

Drifters. Your 1835/10. These drifters have range of only 800 miles and are therefore unsuitable if bad weather is met (R.A. Scapa 2330/11 to Adty).

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Invasion, Immobilising Ports

It has been decided that schemes should be prepared to enable certain ports to be immobilised for seven to ten days in the event of invasion. Military authorities have been instructed to consult with naval and harbour authorities in the preparation of these schemes. Request you will arrange for co-operation of Flag and Naval Officers concerned in your command. Ports for which schemes are to be prepared are:-

Great Yarmouth	The Tees
Lowestoft	Humber Area
Harwich Area	Boston
Sheerness	Peterhead
Dover	Aberdeen
Folkestone	Montrose
Newhaven	Dundee
Blyth	Methil
The Tyne	Burnt Island
Sunderland	Leith
Seaham Harbour	Granton
Hartlepools	

(D. of L. D. 2250/20 to C. in C.'s).

A.A. Ammunition

Re ammunition supply of guns defending Chatham against low-flying aircraft, our 20 Lewis guns could fire for about ½ minutes and the case for 10 minutes, after which the defence would cease to function. In view of the probable scale of enemy attack it is urged that the ammunition supply s hould be greatly increased as rapidly as possible. (C. in C., Nore, 2235/20).

Raids by Submarines

My 1341/17. Considered possible that the advanced forces of an enemy raiding party might be carried in U-boats. Coast watching personnel should be warned accordingly. (D. A/S.W., 1809/20).

Portsmouth Establishments

Transfer of vital experimental organisation and material of schools might become necessary. I am esamining processes for removal but should like information as to possible alternative sites so that these can be reconnoitred. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1223/20).

War Diary

20.4.1940
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Aandalsnes

Captain Denny
General Morgan.

Operation Primrose.

Reinforcements. Force of 2000 men and 200 tons stores to be transported from Rosyth to Aandalsnes to arrive p.m. 23/4. Embark a.m. /21. 2 cruisers of 18th C.S., 1 of 2nd C.S., 6 destroyers to be detailed. This is in addition to requirement in my 1422/19 and 1938/19 (A.C.N.S.(A)0226/20.) GALATEA detailed for duties in 0226/20. ARETHUSA for duties in 1422/19, 1938/19 (C.S.2.1101/20 to Adty.)
My 2319/18 para 6. (amended orders of Primrose). No further action is to be taken with regard to this operation pending further instructions (D.O.D.(H)1138/20 to BLACK SWAN, S.N.O. Molde, PRIMROSE.)

CARLISLE Andalsnes arrival F.O.C.20 C.S. in CARLISLE. (BLACK SWAN 0900/20).

Landing Facilities. Immediate information required re landing facilities at Aandalsnes, Molde, Romsdalfiord, Langfiord and Fannefiord. (D. of P.0240/20 to BLACK SWAN for S.N.O. Molde).

Reply (C.S.2 1023/20).

Oil Supplies. ASHANTI's 1640. No fuel oil in area Christiansand north to Aalesund. Norwegian Navy and commerce use Diesel oil and gas oil. (S.N.O. Molde to BLACK SWAN, C.in C. H.F. etc. 1200/20).

Local Craft. Admty.2319/18. Details of fishing craft, ferry steamers etc. at Aalesund, Christiansand and Molde. In view of continuous enemy air observation, have not concentrated all ships as this will betray operation and provoke bombing, which has already happened at Molde. (S.N.O. Molde 1240/20).

Shore Resources Admty.2304/19. Details of railway rolling stock, labour, etc. About 1000 men and stores can be disembarked each night. (PRIMROSE 1901/20).

PRIMROSE, SICKLE. Your 2220/19. War Office have agreed to maintain Force PRIMROSE in conjection with Force SICKLE. Your requirements for seaboots, boots and cash will be forwarded from Rosyth. (D.of P. 1933/20 to PRIMROSE). Order of priority for personnel and stores (D.of P.1401/20).

Reliefs, Escort Vessels. Request 2 sloops from Rosyth Escort Force relieve BLACK SWAN at Aandalsnes and AUCKLAND at Namsos. Ship detailed for Aandalsnes is to embark Trebizond Naval Base Staff and stores ex s.s. ORION. (D.O.D.(H) 2114/20 to C.in C. Rosyth)

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Operation - Lyster.

Time fixed. Proposed times of sailing. Trawlers and drifters 1030. Forces D and E 1130. (F.O.D.E., 0920/20).

Your 0920. Sailing of Forces D and E approved. (C. in C., Nore, 1037/20).

Operation postponed Operation postponed, return to anchorage. Trawlers and drifters have been informed. (C. in C., Nore, 1152/20, to F.O.D.E., VEGA).

Trawler RIFNESS bombed and sunk app. 10 miles west of Ostend. (V.A. Dover, 1008/20)

Forces D and E passed North Goodwins 1400 (F.O.D.E. 1115/20).

Two M.T.B.'s from Sheerness joining you tonight by 2300 to secure astern of you or patrol round convoy as you direct (C. in C. Nore to VEGA 2058/20). M.T.B.s 22 and 24 to join VEGA at Prince's Channel (C.S. Sheerness 2120/20) and to return Harwich after daylight 21/5 (C. in C., Nore, 2237/20)

Operation XD

Continuation of XD Parties E,F and G for continuation of operation XD are assembling at Chatham Barracks and are to be at 4 hours' notice. Embarkation will take place at Dover to which port stores are now in transit. (D.O.D.(H) 2312/20).

Operation Quixote (Cutting of Cables)

Operation Quixote, Group B have completed cutting Borkum No. 1 and No. 2. Suggest Post Office tests. (JAGUAR, 0600/20). Situation at 0900/20. Group A still searching. Group B, both cables cut. JAGUAR and trawlers returned to Yarmouth. Group C. Northern cable cut. JACKAL and trawlers now leaving Yarmouth to search in position 52:35½ N., 02;34 E. (C. in C., Nore, 0930/20, JACKAL (group C) 0249/20, JAGUAR (Group B) 0600/20).

War Diary

20.4.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aaldesnaes (Operation Sickle).

Operation Sickle (reinforced).

My 1140/20 and 0226/20. It is intended to land a considerable force in Aaldesnes area with ultimate object of capturing Trondheim in conjunction with Wiart's force at Namsos. Two Brigades originally allocated to Hammer will be landed in Aaldesnes area so as to gain control of Dombass area and isolate Trondheim from south. Further troops will follow.
This operation will still be referred to as Sickle.
First Brigade will probably land p.m./23 and p.m./25. Immediate steps are being taken to obtain small transports suitable for entering the fiords. Meanwhile H.M.ships must be used for transporting troops.
(D.C.N.S.1731/20 to C.in C. H.F.)
C.in C. H.F. to detail cruisers and destroyers to transport a second force of 2000 men and 200 tons stores from Rosyth to Romsdale Fiord to arrive dusk 25/4 or earliest date after.
(D.C.N.S.2246/21).

Reliefs.

Admty.2114. PELICAN detailed for Aandalsnes, FLEETWOOD for Namsos, leaving Rosyth about 0100/21. (C.in C. Rosyth 2220/20. Sail BLACK SWAN for Rosyth (D.O.D.(H) 2220/20 to C.S.20).

Local Conditions.

Aandalsnes berthing facilities. W/T conditions at Romsdal Fiord. Effective communication on H.F. between Aandalsnes and England using the portable sets at present supplied very doubtful owing to close screening by mountings. (C.S.2. 1023/20) A/A defences by ships, gunnery exercise difficult. R direction-finding useless. (F.O. 20 C.S. 1346/20).

Cabinet meeting.

Am attending a meeting of Ministers at Aandalsnes today. Have ordered ships to withdraw so as not to endanger them by attracting bombers. Ships are sole target. (C.S.20, 1428/20).

Local Resources.

Admty 2304/19. Local resources at quay, rolling stock, A.R.P. etc. About 1000 men and stores can be disembarked each night. (Primrose 1901/20).

Air Attack.

Aandalsnes being bombed (F.O. 20 C.S. 1739/20).

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Operation Quixote

Informed test on No. 2 Borkum cables are as before operation. May be due to enemy action between recent operations and Bacton. Only way to make sure isto go to ALERT's repair 17/8/22 and raise and cut there, as there is possibility of an abandoned cable. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1654/20).

Operation Completed

Operation completed. Trawlers escorted by JAVELIN and JAGUAR expect arrive Yarmouth Roads 0400. JAVELIN has 5 survivors of whitley bomber including wounded officer. (JAVELIN, 2121/20).

Operations - Narvik

Military Situation

Situation 0900/19, Ankenes Peninsula. 2nd Bn. Poles have relieved 12th Bn. Chasseurs who have returned to Bogen.

Bjervik Area. Norwegian reports state 80 parachute troops were dropped Rundfjell 15/5 and 10 dropped Bjernfjell 16/5. Mo (corrupt group) 1700 hours. Scots Guards withdrawn from Mo where road and rail bridge destroyed. Portion of rearguard company lost, one enemy aeroplane destroyed. (N.W.E.F., 2210/20).

Destroyers. Skaanland Aerodrome.

Your 1308/19 have no destroyers I can send you. Earliest date Skaanland aerodrome can receive Hurricanes is 26/5. Can GLORIOUS be back by 26/5 (F.O. Narvik, 1041/20 to C. in C., H.F.).

Convoy Escorts

The requirements for destroyers make it essential that escorts for convoys to Narvik should be reduced to a minimum. Risk of attack by surface ships must be accepted. Convoys should be routed well to the westward. (D.D.O.D. to C. in C., H.F., 0052/20). Cancel my 0052/20. (V.C.N.S., 1011/20).

War Diary

20.4.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aaldesnes (Operation Sickle).

Operation Sickle (reinforced).

My 1140/20 and 0226/20. It is intended to land a considerable force in Aaldesnes area with ultimate object of capturing Trondheim in conjunction with Wiart's force at Namsos. Two Brigades originally allocated to Hammer will be landed in Aaldesnes area so as to gain control of Dombaas area and isolate Trondheim from south. Further troops will follow.
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(Primrose 1901/20).

Air Attack.

Aandalsnes being bombed (F.O. 20 C.S. 1739/20).

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Narvik.

Relief for AURORA & ENTERPRISE

Request you will sail one ship of 18th C.S. for Narvik as soon as practicable to take the place of AURORA and ENTERPRISE, both of which require repair. (Adty. 0050/20 to C. in C., H.F.) (SOUTHAMPTON was sent).

Code Names

CHAMOIS and BOREAL are now the code names for C. in C., French troops in Scandinavia and the Commander French troops Narvik area respectively. (Adty. to C. in C., H.F. 1622/20).

TRUANT

Sailed to patrol between 025° 48' E. and 029° 00' E. south of 071° 15' N. (F.O., 1st C.S. 1810/20).

~~**Hvalfiordy Net Defences**~~

~~Completed in position J. on S.B.D. drawing B.D. 620 (GUARDIAN 1815/20).~~

Convoys

Routes for homeward bound convoys and escorts (TARTAR, WESTCOTT, WARWICK, MATABELE). (C. in C., Rosyth, 1900/20).

Your 1228/19 N.P.4 can be received 30/5 N.S.4 about 3/6. Present situation 20 merchant ships in anchorage in Harstad area which are frequently bombed. 11 ships of N.S.3 kept at sea, 2 of them names not previously reported lack fuel and with 4 others enter harbour 22/5. PIONEER HEILO CARMINSTERI.G. SPICA BELFAST being kept at sea under escort of one destroyer. ROYAL ULSTERMAN arrives 22/5 ACRITY 23/5. Movements of MANELA not known. Thus 29 ships in harbour and due. 4 ships can be cleared 24/5, 4 or 8 additional by 30/5. As requested in my 2239/8 it is essential that convoy should be sailed only by direction of Narvik and that contents of ships be signalled as early as possible.
(F.O., Narvik, 2245/20 to C. in C., H.F.)

A/S trawlers

Relief desirable in view of arduous service and increase in subjections to air attacks. (R.A. Narvik, 1252/20).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aandalsnes, Aalesund, Molde.

FLAMINGO } To sail from Scapa as escort for Convoy T.M.1
BITTERN } GUARDIAN and MASONA. BLACK SWAN pass to S.N.O. Molde. (D.O.D.(H) 2115/20).

Bullion Transport. 50 tons gold at Aandalsnes to be shipped England divided between 3 ships. Request instructions. (C.S.20 to Admty. 2143/20). Arrange for embarkation in H.M. ships as opportunity occurs. (Admlty.0124/31).

Transfer of Shipping
Norwegian Government. My 2143. Cabinet request immediate transport of Director of Shipping, Mr. Leventzen, to England to negotiate immediate transfer of all Norwegian shipping to Allied control. King and Government probably move to Les Javerk, 30 miles N.W. of Dombas. (C.S.20. 2229/30).

Air Attacks. CARLISLE, BLACK SWAN and AUCKLAND being heavily bombed (C.S.20.1304/20)
Aandelsnes being bombed (F.O.C. 20 C.S. 1739/20) (AUCKLAND 1637/20).
Aandalsnes bombed 3 times today, possibly because Cabinet is here. Major G.W. Beesley, R.M. wounded, taken to hospital at Molde. No other casualties. (F.O.C.20.C.B. 2233/20).
One Heinkel III damaged during attack on CARLISLE 20/4 reported crashed in mountains (Carlisle 2201/21).

Air Base. Asking exact position of frozen lake for establishment of aerodrome between Aandelsnes and Dombaas. (C.in.C. H.F. 1809/20).

Netlaying GUARDIAN and MASONA to sail from Scapa with Convoy TMI to lay nets Aandalsnes. (D.T.D.1928/20).

Sickle, Plans Admty.0226/20. Ships to embark personnel and stores as follows:-

(a) GLASGOW and SHEFFIELD, each 650 men, 70 tons of stores.

(b) GALATEA, 350 men, 30 tons of stores.

(c) 6 destroyers, each 60 men, 5 tons of stores.

In addition, 4 Bofors guns in s.s. ORION to be embarked as ordered by C.S.2 Naval Base Staff will proceed Aandalsnes in a subsequent flight. Ships to arrive Romsdals Fiord at dusk and disembark troops and stores during night. They are to sail at daylight even if disembarkation is incomplete. (D.of P.1705/20).

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Aircraft carriers.

Your 2231/18. Consider it essential to Air operations that a report one hour before flying off at 0600 to-morrow Tuesday that visibility on the Coast is suitable for Aircraft to make landfall. Since in any event the attack must leave for Scapa at 0800 to-morrow Tuesday I suggest if and when conditions are suitable Gladiators should be directed to fly to Bardu-Foss today Monday. The visibility at sea today is less than one mile and the 5 T.S.R. Escort Aircraft would probably have to remain at Bardu-Foss until H.M.S. GLORIOUS re-embarked them on 26th May. (GLORIOUS 1121/20 to F.O. Narvik).

Your 1041/20 and GLORIOUS 1121/20. GLORIOUS and FURIOUS will sail for U.K. directly Gladiators are landed. GLORIOUS should be able to return by am/27. ARK ROYAL will retain present destroyer screen and leave area am/21 (V.A.(A) 1600/20).

Vaernes Aerodrome

Adty. 1424/19. You will be the best judge as to whether an attack on Vaernes aerodrome is a feasible proposition on your way south. (5 S.L. to V.A.(A) 2004/20).

FURIOUS unable to fly off aircraft

Should fog persist FURIOUS must either take Gladiators back to Scapa or remain for weather to clear. 300 tons fuel required for every 24 hours delay after 0800/21. In any event GLORIOUS will return to Scapa 0800/21. Request instructions. (FURIOUS 2050/20 to F.O. Narvik).

Your 1121/20. Fly off now (Narvik 2101/20 to GLORIOUS)

ARK ROYAL

Request personnel be retained in U.K. and not sent to this base (R.A. Narvik, 2126/20).

War Diary

20.4.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aandalsnes - Operation Sickle

Army Forces. Major General Paget has assumed command Sickle Force which is being reinforced forthwith by 15th Infantry Brigade. Brigadier Smyth, of which first 2000 men arrive Aandalsnes ex H.M.Ships evening 23rd. (Admty.2050/20 for Sickle Force from War Office).

From General Paget. My intentions first secure Aandalsnes-Dombass and L. of C. connecting them against threats from sir Oslo, Trondheim. Second, assist Norwegians Oslo direction by operating down Lillehammer and Osterdaalen Valleys. My eventual plan that you in western, Smyth in eastern valleys. Roles of Smyth's brigade given him today first secure Aandalsnes in cooperation Primrose; secon, secure Dombaas, thus freeing you third move a detachment block Osterdaalen Valley from south. (Gen. Paget, to Brig.Morgan, Sickle Force, 2122/20).

Net Defences. GUARDIAN to load special equipment to lay at Aandalsnes and subsequently at Molde if required. Net defences for Namsos being dealt with last (D.B.D. 1746/20).

Convoy. A/A Defence CURACOA CURACOA ordered to give A/A protection to troop convoy escorted by JACKAL and JAVELIN proceeding Aandalsnes, and remain in that area as A/A guard ship. CARLISLE return to Scapa on arrival of CURACOA or earlier if fuel or ammunition require. (C.in C. H.F. 2311/20).

ARETHUSA To convoy troops and stores for Sickle and Primrose and H.A. ammunition for sloops to Romdals Fiord, and return Rosyth when disembarkation complete. (F.O.C. 2 C.S. 2235/20).

Primrose Suspended. My 2319/18, para.C, amended orders of Primrose. No further action is to be taken with regard to this operation pending further instructions. (D.C.D.(H) 1138/20).

Molde.

Local Situation. Following from Captain Denny at Molde:-
Only communication is by telephone which is unreliable and compromised. Have no code or cypher and no staff. Consider Molde would make suitable base for A/S vessels. Am operating three Norwegian M.T.Bs. in area Aalesund to Budiet. Have taken steps to acquire nine local trawlers. Molde evacuated and locals very frightened. Large numbers of semi-Nazi sympathisers in area and all stories of German Forces greatly exaggerated. Norwegian Forces require to be considerably energised. Requisition of ships and stores easy now but financial arrangements will have to be made soon. (ends).
Your 0240/20, para.(11). Additional information about jetties, etc., reported by ARETHUSA. (C.S.2 to Admty. 1022/20).

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Iceland.

Convoy

FOXHOUND expected Regkjavik 0700/21. Convoy not ready to sail until p.m. 21/5. (N.O.I.C.Iceland, 1800/20).

Alabaster Forde

ALABASTER's 1401/18 para. 3. Drifters capable of accommodation 20 men each could be made available, but would require prior modification. Your 1615/19 and C. in C., Home Fleet's 1030/20 suggest that requirements might be met by use of local resources. Request early report if this is practicable. (D.O.D.(H) 2017/20).

Shipping Precautions

From the point of view of security some form of inspection of ships arriving Reykjavik appears desirable in lieu of pending establishment of examination service. This could take the form of visit by officer accompanied by armed guard. Minister has no objection and Port authorities are prepared to co-operate. Traffic inconsiderable. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1114/20).

FOXHOUND)
GUARDIAN)

Your 1100/19. Concur in use of FOXHOUND but sailing of GUARDIAN and convoy must not be delayed as destroyers cannot be spared to remain in Icelandic waters. (C. in C., H.F. 1025/20 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

Net defences Hvalfjord completed in position J on S.B.D. drawing B.D. 620. (GUARDIAN, 1815/20).

Trawler Reconnaissance

My 1615/7. First trawlers have returned. They landed at settlements in the following Fjords: Copna, Nord, Eski and Faskruds. Only ships met besides local fishing craft were Govt. mail steamers SUDIN and ESJI and one small refugee Norwegian fishing boat. Local Sheriffs at first three places friendly and reported no German ships or nationals seen since hostilities began. There is flat ground at the head of Nord Fjord but improbable that it could be used as a landing ground. Stocks of coal meagre and expensive. Largest 400 to 500 tons at Nord. Small shipwright and engineering repair jobs can be done at Nord but at no other place visited. Reykjavik Radio reported unidentified aircraft over Borgan Fjord on May 12th. (C. in C., H.F., 1030/20).

War Diary

20.4.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Molde

Resources. Wharf and harbour resources, ferry steamers, etc. details. (S.N.O. Molde 1240/20, 2315/20).

Are you in L/F communication with Aalesund Radio, which is working with Wick Radio ? (D.S.D. to S.N.O. Molde, 0008/21).

ASHANTI's 1640. There is not any fuel oil in area Christiansand North to Aalesund. Norwegian Navy and commerce use Diesel oil and gas oil. (S.N.O. Molde 1200/20).

Watching System. Primrose Post Watching System covering Fiord and approaches to Christiansand North and to Aalesund has been in operation 2 days and is improvised. Numerous U-boat sightings reported, few of which are credible. (Examples of most reliable).
I am convinced no U-boats have been in Mifjord, Julsundet, and Romsdal Fiord since Primrose arrived. (S.N.O. Molde, 1000/20).

Trondheim

Operation Hammer.

Blockade. Orders in sense of D.C.N.S.2120/19. 2 destroyers to maintain patrol. ASHANTI, MOHAWK may be used (C.in C. H.F. 0119/20 to R.A.D. H.F.)

Enemy air bases. Uncompleted seaplane base on south of Mitteren Island about long. 09°07'E. Other German air preparations. (D.N.A.D. to H.Q. C.C. 0733/20).

Hammer Cancelled. Operation Hammer is cancelled. Preliminary orders for revised operation are contained in my 0826/20. (D.O.D.(H) 1140/20 to C.in C. H.F.)

Enemy Supplies. Reported from good Norwegian source that Trondheim is short of food and ammunition. (Brit.Minister, Stockholm, No.315/20/4).

French Force. No. 1073. General Gamelin has pointed out to British General Staff that it appeared essential to control passes in the mountain range between Trondheim and Lillehammer. Also suggested that this operation might be carried out by your force which is particularly well suited for mountain warfare. (F.N.L.O. to CURLEW, from French Military Attache to General Audet, 1800/20).

Destroyer Patrols. ASHANTI and MOHAWK to patrol in Trondheim Leden to prevent reinforcements reaching enemy at Trondheim. SOMALI and TARTAR arrive Uraakvaag Fiorden, 63°40'N, 09°15'E, at dusk tomorrow to establish patrol there. (R.A.D.H.F.2354/20).

HOME COMMANDS

Allied Submarines

ANTIOPE attacked LA SIBYLLE

At 0100/20 French submarine ANTIOPE fired 3 torpedoes at LA SIBYLLE (French). All 3 torpedoes missed. (D.C.N.S., 259)

Your 0320 (attack on supposed U-boat after hunting for six hours). Regain your patrol zone. (R.A.(S), 0623/20 to ANTIOPE).

Dutch War Vessels

Trawlers, minelayers.

To proceed to Falmouth to come under Dutch administration there. Also propose to sail 6 minelayers and minesweepers as soon as degaussed. One tug and one vessel suitable for harbour work, dispersal of which the Dutch Admiral will discuss on his return. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1657/20). Your 1657. How many trawlers are there available? (D.O.D.(H) 1934/20).

NORTH ATLANTIC

French positions. 1300/20. (D.C.0202/20)

Danish ships. My 1315/15. Danish Vice Consul, Lisbon, has urged Masters and crews of Danish ships in Lisbon to sail for a British port, but cannot act without authority of New York. Request New York be asked to give necessary authority. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1625/20).

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

Freetown. Ships to be warned no fresh water can be guaranteed at Freetown. (C.-in-C. S.A.1231/20).

Dakar. My 0019/18. Owing anticipated difficult fuel oil position, further 14 catchers at Dakar should not be fuelled and must remain Dakar pending further orders. (D.T.D.1616/20).

Norwegian Shipping. Policy to be inaugurated in South Atlantic from 0800 G.M.T. 21/4. (C.-in-C. S.A.1251/20)

Fuelling. In neutral ports, Admiralty policy (Hd.of M. to R.A.S.A.D. 1711/20)

MEDITERRANEAN.

Malaya. To sail for Gibraltar after week-end leave. (D.O.D.(F)1650/20, 1906/20) sailed 1002 (C.-in-C. M.A. 1122/22).

Royal Sovereign. Proceed to Gibraltar at best possible speed. (1st S.L. 1548/20).

Genoa Boom. Report from Genoa (A.2) that boom has been replaced across mouth of Genoa harbour, leaving only narrow entrance for shipping. (Britnavat, Rome, 2016/20).

Swedish Destroyers. My 1650/17. Naples report 2 destroyers left 17/4 for Swedish Navy. Four sailed 18/4 for Gibraltar and Lisbon, partly manned by Italians and destined for Germany although flying Swedish flag. (S.O.I. Malta 1458/20).

Concur in proposals made in M.E.I.C./1/28 of 16/4. (C.-in-C. Med. 2021/20).

Alexandria A/S Groups. 5th and 28th A/S Groups to be sailed for Alexandria (Admlty 1856/20). Alexandria being the home port of vessels during hostilities (Hd.of M.1814/20).

Submarine Report. Civil aircraft Alexandria to Birndisi at 0900/19 observed submarine crash dived 200 miles 315°

from ....

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity

Fishing craft — Attacked by aircraft with bombs and machine gunned 55:40 N., 4:20 E. at 1330. Left in a sinking condition and abandoned (Donibristle, 1810/20). Had "DANMARK" on side, hoisted swastika as aircraft approached. (Donibristle, rec. 2100/20).

Reconnaissance — Open boats, apparently refugees, and floating mines. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0922/20)

Enemy M.T.B.s — Four fishing vessels were attacked 70 miles off Horns Reef at 1330 and one left in a sinking condition. Nine M.T.B.'s were attacked by 3 Ansons at 1915. No hits with bombs, but one M.T.B. heavily attacked with machine guns. One Anson shot down . (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 2250/20). See also Enemy Intelligence.

Stavanger Attacked — At 0300/20, British aircraft attacking Stavanger started four fires and put a searchlight out of action. Other aircraft dropped incendiary bombs on Vaernes aerodrome, in the Trondheim area, at 0012/20) where a concentration of 200 enemy aircraft had been reported.. Bombed aerodrome 15 miles S.E. Stavanger, believed dummy. (Donibristle, 0550/20, 0730/20).

Lympne Aerodrome — Necessary for R.A.F.to take over accommodation as quickly as possible. Request alternative arrangements for accommodation of F.A.A. personnel. (Air Min. 2000/20 to Adty).

War Diary.

20.4.40
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships Attacked.

HAWNBY
Mined — British 5,380 tons, outward bound with coal from Tyne for Gibraltar, mined in Thames Estuary off Knock John Buoy. Crew rescued by M.T.B.04 and taken Ramsgate. Consider isolated A/C mine, diversion not necessary. (C.-in-C. Nore, 1635/20).

MERSEY — British 1037 tons, which left Antwerp for the Downs on 17/4, was mined in Thames Estuary 51° 17.2" N., 01° 28.1" E. 2 were killed, 11 missing (D.C.M.S. 230). (V.A. Dover 1334/21).

Submarines reported. — Estimated dispositions are in general consistent with those recently given. Presence of one U/B near Faroes and of one between Firth of Forth and Kinnairds Head confirmed. Possibly one still in Irish Sea. (I.C.0426/40) (D.D.I.C.1523/20) (H.Q.C.C.1711/20)

0906 — By D/F 64° 20'N 20'E (D.D.I.C.1002/20) (A/C 224 Sqdn. 0906/20)

1015 — Submarine bearing 060° 1 mile 62°63'N., 01°09'E., 90 m. N.E. from Muckle Flugga. (Emile Bertin 1015/20).

0930 — 60° 12 miles L P I F 5950 (REPULSE intercept 0930/20)

0430 — 57° 04' N., 05° 30' E., 70 m. S.W. by S. from Lister Light, seen on surface by Severn (Severn 1250/20)

1420 — 60° 32' N., 04° 06' E., 60 m. W.N.W. from Bergen; seen on surface by A/C. (A/C 224 Sqdn.1420/20).

2000 — 59° 40' N, 03° 25' E., 50 m. N.W. by W. from Utsire Light, seen on surface by A/C.

2145 — 53° 50' N., 08° 51' E., off Cuxhaven, reported by A/C. (H.Q.B.C. 0130/21).
Position modified 53° 50' N., 08° 10' E. (H.Q. B.C.0500/21).

2306 — 57° 20' N., 05° 10' E. seen on surface by A/C. (H.Q.B.C.0340/21)

1938 — 60° 40' N., 0° 15' E. D.F. reliable fix (D.D.I.C.2006/20)

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

PAVON	4128 tons. Bombed near Calais, set on fire, and sank at 2257/20. (D.S.)
RIFSNESS	M/s trawler. Bombed from 0740 for about 2 hours 10 mins. W. of Ostend. Hit and sunk (V.A.Dover, 2335/20, 1008/20).
MALCOLM	Bombed 1720. Casualties caused by a near miss, 3 dead, 10 seriously W. (V.A.Dover, 2335/20). Minor damage (V.A. Dover 1201/21).
LORD INCHCAPE	M/S trawler. Bombed from 0740 for about 2 hours 10 mins. W. of Ostend. (V.A. Dover, 2335/20).
ARABIS	Bombed by 2 aircraft. No damage (ARABIS 2230/20, 0100/21).
CHOUDS	Bombed off Calais 2258 G.M.T. on fire. (N. Foreland Radio, T.O.R. 0003/21).
PEMBROKE COAST	Transport (with petrol supplies). Bombed and set on fire at Vaagsfiord. Total loss.
BALTAE&o	Supply ship. Bombed and set on fire at Vaagsfiord.
Signals	Reported that enemy aircraft over the Skagerrak are using night identification signals similar in colour and possibly identical with our own. (French submarine ACHILLE, 0034/20).
Seaplane Destroyed	VENOMOUS shot down a seaplane off the Goodwins at midnight 19-20/5. (D.C.N.S. 259).
S.S. KOMET	Attacked 0912/20 without success. "Expect bomb dropped 5 miles 076° of Dungeness". (N. Foreland Radio Rec. 1030/20).
ACHILLE	Severely bombed by unknown aircraft at MBZS 0605 at 0840 (French S/m ACHILLE 0925/20).

FOREIGN STATIONS

MEDITERRANEAN (Contd)

from Alexandria. 2-funnelled cruiser sighted south of Corfu (D.D.I.C.1916/20). Further investigation shows report is unreliable. (D.D.I.C.1451/20).

AMERICA & WEST INDIES.

Norwegian Ships. Admiralty 2328/17. Impression gained by contact large number of masters Bermuda & Trinidad is that placing armed guards on board Norwegian ships unnecessary and undesirable except in rare cases where sympathies of master are in doubt. (C.-in-C. A.W.I.0105/20).

Arnba - Curacao My 1443/14. Jamaica reports one company regular troops available. Mastinique willing to send infantry and 2 sections of artillery. Operation and administration simplified if French Force to Curacao and British to Arnba. (C.-in-C. A.W.I. 1127/20).

Bermuda Convoys. Bermuda is now convoy assembly port in addition to Halifax. First convoy will sail from Bermuda on 7/5. Details of anchorage. (C.-in-C.A.W.I. 2159/20).

War Diary

20.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

R.F.A. BERTA	Bombed off Beachy Head leaving 288 distance 12 miles at 2200 (Niton Radio 2250/20).
BATAVIER II	Attacked by enemy aircraft off Beachy Head bearing 306 about 8 miles (BATAVIER II, 2323/20).
Dunkirk, Calais, Havre, Boulogne.	Bombed between 2000/19 and 2000/20. (V.A. Dover, 2335/20).
Havre.	Heavy air raid in progress since 2230. Many fires damage in docks. All traffic stopped between Rouen and coast owing to magnetic mines. Raid still in progress. French Adty. telegraphed British Adty. stopping convoy (B.C. Havre 0030/20) See also Mining.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

HOME COMMANDS

Stuttgart.	13,387 G.T. hospital ship, reported in Stockholm Press to have anchored off Varberg, Sweden, 57° 07' N., 12° 15' E. on night of 18/4 and proceeded towards Oslo on 19/4. (I.C.,0426/40).
Consul Heintz Rad Bod	Arrived Leipaja, (Libau) with coal 19/4.
Barcelona	From intercepted W/T messages, appears to expect to arrive at Holtenau at 1600/20.
KARIBSCHES MEER) ERNST L.M. RUSS)	Reported to have left Tallin for Germany 0600/19 the former (tanker) with 8,000 tons of Estonian oil and the Russ with provisions and general cargo. (I.C.0426/40).
RHEIN	Trawler, 254 tons, intercepted by FURIOUS and taken in prize. Proceeded to Harstar under escort by IMOGEN (I.C.0427/40).

CHINA

Essen Stassfurt.	Information obtained at Singapore from two Czech seamen deserters from German ship ESSEN (now at Sourabaya) is that German ships in D.E.I. intend to make a break. ESSEN has a supply of petrol to assist scuttling. Ships will make for Vladivostok, via Japan, where they hope for assistance from Japanese Navy. Five open cases containing 6 mm. machine guns had been sighted in STASSFURT (now at Tjilitjap). (I.C. 0426/40).

War Diary

20.5.1940
Monday

Home Commands

Mining.

Floating Mines

Reported by aircraft in 51°32'N 2° 11'E and 51° 32'N 2° 10'E at 0803 aircraft endeavoured to sink without success. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0922)

Minelaying, Jaedernes

Your 2213/19 concur in laying off Jaedernes first, but should like mines in the other position to be laid same time.

Suspicious objects.

Like a small bomb, with fins around the top, appeared to be floating, not moored, and about 3 ft out of water. 8 in all over 40 miles between 50° 28' N 1° 3' W through 50° 27' N 0° 47'W then 071° to Beachey Head. Sighted by tanker TORNUS 0840 G.M.T. 17/5.

War Diary

20.5. 1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Havre Mined

Aircraft dropped bombs and magnetic mines in Caross Road near La Havre (Scapa W/T T.O.R. 0028/20, C. in C., Portsmouth, 2328/19, 0114/20)

Dieppe

Mines in entrance Dieppe Radio 0200/20, Scapa W/T. T.O.R. 0308/20)

Dieppe was again mined by aircraft on the night 19-20 May, estimated three mines (I.C. 0457/40)

Shipping

Belgian Trawlers

To be sent to Dartmouth. Arrangements for their future employment will be made through Belgium Shipping Commission. (A.C.N.S. 1103/20) Does not apply to Belgian vessels fishing regularly from West Coast Ports. (A.C.N.S. 1331/20)

O-342 and O-83 arrived with 16 and 57 refugees respectively. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1443/20)
O-224 and O-80 with 20 and 72 refugees, and O-88 for orders (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1910/20)

Convoys

Situation at 2000/20 (C. in C., 1420/20)

Italian Ships Detained

Complaints have been received from Italian Government that Italian ships bound for the Tyne in ballast have been held up at Falmouth. This is said to be on the instructions of the Contraband Committee and to apply at present time to SS BARBANA G and SS ANDREA. Is there any foundation for the protest? If so please furnish full explanation (N.S.W. 1135/20 to Falmouth)

Miscellaneous

Baltic

Since my last report 27/4 there has been greatly increased Russian activity of warships tanks and aircraft and large increase of the garrison. Arrived additional 1 large and 2 smaller cruisers. Since 14/5 there has been large passenger ship JOSEPH-STALIN in war-harbour and similar passenger ship anchored in outer harbour.

the/

War Diary

20.5. 1940.
Monday.

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the/

War Diary

20.5.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

Baltic, Contd.

The inhabitants of H.W. Laivu and Kraqu Streets are being removed.

Since my last report 7 ships have arrived with German coal for state department and 3 Russian tankers with oil for Russia. (Vice Consul, Liepaja, 0830/20)

Continental Telephones Stopped.

At 2255 G.P.O. reported that there was no public telephone service to France, Italy or Switzerland. Reason, bomb hit repeater station.

Swedish Destroyers in Eire

Admiralty 1430/16 and 1844/18 Eire authorities state no arrangements were made to supply fuel oild, as Swedish Consul when applying to to them for facilities merely asked that water and provisions should be available. (N.A., Dublin, 1300/20)

Weather

North Sea

Wind, light, northerly. Visibility very good, moderate on English coast. Outlook similar.

Channel

Wind, N.E., light to moderate. Visibility good, Outlook, mod. northerly wind.

Western Approaches.

Wind, E to S.E., light to moderate. Visibility, good. Outlook Similar.

Horns Reef

Wind, northerly, moderate to fresh. Visibility, very good. Outlook, visibility becoming mod.

W. Coast Norway (South)

Wind, northerly, light to moderate. Visibility, very good. Outlook similar.

Ditto (North)

Wind, westerly, moderate to fresh, Visibility, moderate to good, fog patches on coast. Outlook similar.

Dutch Coast

Wind, N.E. moderate. Visibility good, hazy. Outlook, similar.

War Diary

20.5.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Naval Forces. (see situation report)

M.T.B's. Eight enemy war motor boats bearing 090° distance one mile course 194° from position CPOX 4815 (aircraft squadron 1901/20, C. in C., Nore, 2103/20 to JACKAL, JAGUAR, JAVELIN)
Enemy's course 194° 25 knots, (aircraft 48 squadron, 1915/20) 9 enemy M.T.B's in C.P.O.X. 4915 (52° 49'N 4° 15'E) at 1900 attacked at 1950 by aircraft damage to M.T.B's not known. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2250/20) See also Air.

2 Fishing vessels sunk At 0300/20 sank 2 Danish fishing vessels in 54° 8'N 3°35'E. Rising sea and lack of accomodation prevented action against 5 others later. Fishermen have information of Kattegat operation. Have 7 men 1 dog on board. (SPEARFISH 1135/20) your 1435/20 boats were fishing in Mukden 8/4-27/4 down to 56° 30'N. Some apparent knowledge over this period of German minefields etc. (SPEARFISH 1803/20)

Explosive Fountain Pens Commander of provice of Antwerp states Germans dropping by parachute fountain pens containing dtonator with explosive Detonator explodes when cap of pen is taken off (C. in C., Nore, 1614/20)

War Diary

20.5.1940
Monday.

Foreign Stations

North Atlantic.

French Positions

Convoys and patrols. (D.C., 0105/20)

Portugese Patrol

My 0808/19. Patrol A.H. has been abolished. A.F. and A.J. have been extended as follows. A.F. between 44° N and 40° 30'N. A.J. between 37° N and 40° 15'N. Longitudes remain unchanged. (D.C., 1327/20)

South Atlantic

Suspected raider

My 1051/19. D.F. bearings at 1200 gone K.I. today indicate possibility of suspected ship being to eastwards of position given. (C. in C., S.A. 2141/20)

Re Ascension keeping continuous W/T watch.

Can decision be given on my 218/1190 of 20/12/39. With possibility of a raider being in South Atlantic it is considered that possibility of distress messages being received and so retransmitted to a Naval Authority will be increased very considerable if continuous watch can be maintained on 500 Kcs at Ascension. Experience in the case of NEWTON BEECH proves possibility of SCIENTIST having sent out raider report which has not been received by a shore station. (C. in C., S.A. 1921/20 to Admiralty)

Weather Reports

Suggesting coding of Madagascar weather broadcats which are continuing in plain language. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1515/20)

Mediterranean.

D.W.I. Aircraft

5 D.W.I. Wellington aircraft flying to Egypt via Malta should arrive 23/5, for employment magnetic mine sweeping of Suez canal and Alexandria. (D.S.M., 1946/20)

Movements.

HYPERION, HASTY, HOSTILE, KINGSTON, KANDAHAR, KHARTOUM, NUBIAN, 38N, 5 E, to Malta WISHART, DOUGLAS, 37 N 12E., escorting CROMSAY to Malta. DRAGON left Alexandria 16/5 (D.C., 0754/20)(to B.N.L.O. Marseau)

~~**Threat to block Suez Canal**~~

French Consul Trieste received anonymous letter stating Italian intention to block Suez Canal with old warships before declaring war. Same source also reports MIRAGLIA arriving Suez. 23rd or 24th May with excuse carrying aircraft to East Africa. (B.N.L.O. Marseau to Adty. 1850/20)

War Diary

20.5.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean Contd.

Tanker Sailings

A.M. 2016/16, sailings westbound from Port Said, Alexandria, Haifa and Cyprus. Sailings westward of tankers from Tripoli have also been stopped. (C. in C., Med. 0701/20)

Crete

A.C.N.S. (A) Will arrange with C. in C., Med. for one submarine to patrol off Suda Bay to forestall any Italian occupation. (M.S.M.)

Italian Warships

Report from Imperial Airways pilot (A.I) Italian cruiser TARANTO spent 4 days loading mines. 2 merchant ships from Triest being fitten out as minesweepers with paravanes and a gun forward and aft. Radio station which normally broadcasts weather reports every 3 hours off the air 19/5. Italian explanation "Struck by lightning" proved untrue. (G.O.I., Alexandria, 1847/20)

Yugo Slav General Staff states (a) 19/5 one Italian destroyer and 2 tugs, each towing a monitor arrived at Zara (A.N.A. Belgrade 1800/20)

East Indies

Tankers

A.M. 0010/20. Northbound chartered tankers are to be kept at Aden for the present, but if your information should indicate that situation is becoming critical they are to be sailed for Bombay without further orders. (C. in C., E.I. to N.O.I.C., Aden, 0856Z/20)

America & West Indies.

Degaussing

Your 1330/17. Delay up to 6 days acceptable. Preference should be given to ships bound for London or East Coast U.K. ports. Tankers must not be degaussed when loaded. (D.T.D., 1826/20 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

T.C. 5 & T.C. 6.

R.A. 3's 1842/17 REVENGE alone is considered sufficient escort for T.C. 5 and REVENGE and EMERALD for T.C. 6. Request report whether the forces now at your disposal for convoy escort duties are adequate. Assume you regard all A.M.C.I's now allocated to Halifax and Bermuda as one force for purpose of operations and refits. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in. C., A.W.I. 2314/20)

War Diary

20.5.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

ARAWA, KANIMBLA, MORETON BAY

Cancel my 0359/13 ARAWA to leave patrol so as to arrive Hong King 27/13. Unless situation changes, KANIMBLA will sail for patrol off Japan 29/5 and MORETON BAY arrives Hong Kong 10/6. C. in C., China 0512/20)

War Diary

20.5.1940.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands.

The demolitions at Delfzyl by the Dutch have blocked the entrance to the harbour and prevented the German ships inside from putting to sea. Among those temporarily imprisoned in this way are the AUGUST BOLTEN, 3655 tons, BOLTENHEIM, (?BOLTENHOF, 3307 tons) JERDBEK, 2804 tons, CASABLANCA, 2313 tons NORDLICHT (?) WITTEKIND, 4029 tons, PALERMO, 1461 tons, THIELBEK, 1883 tons WOLFGANG L.M. RUSS (?) ZEUS, 2500 tons. (D.S. 21/5)

South Atlantic

RUDOLF ALBRECHT

My 1157/18, RUDOLF ALBRECHT arrived Teneriffe 18/5. (C. in C., S.A., 1011/20)

East Indies

TANNENFELS
UCKERMARK
RANNENFELS
ASKARI
KIONGA

Admiralty 1312/11 RANCHI reports TANNENFELS and another ship almost certainly UCKERMARK plainly visible at Kismaya. RANNENFELS now has buff panel 2 vessels resembling ASKARI and KIONGA also seen. (C. in C., E.I., 0441/20)

War Diary

20.5.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

LA SIBYLLE missed.

Enemy submarine fired 2 torpedoes at her 0150 both missed. My position 53° 23'N 3° 51'E (LA SIBYLLE 0127/20) It was ANTIOPE who attacked LA SIBYLLE, see submarines attacked)

Submarines reported

1600 — 52°52'., 01° 37'E, 12 E by S from Cromer ~~Cower~~by ROSEMARY (ROSEMARY 1600/20) see submarines attacked. Unreliable (C. in C., Portsmouth 2000/20)

1635 — 58° 00'N, 10° 00'W. possible periscope reported by A.M.C. SCOTSOUN (doubtful) I.C. 0456/40) (SCOTSTOUN 1635/20, 1700/20

1600 — 50° 44'N 0°10'E 3'W Beachy Head. aircraft report. Hunt unsuccessful (I.C. 0457/40)

Estimated Dispositions — 2 or possibly 3 U-Boats off W and N.W. Ireland southbound. Possibly 1 near North Channel D.D.I.C. 1205/20)

Submarines Attacked.

0900 — By aircraft position 58o 1'N 1°58 N level bombs, hits not estimated. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn., 0900/20) Amend position to 57° 12'N 1° 52'W. Submarine now considered friendly. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1030/20)

1915 — ROSEMARY and ENCHANTRESS attacked a suspected enemy submarine off Beachy Head. Oil and bubbles appeared and search being continued. (C. in C., W.A. 1721/20 ENCHANTRESS 2215/20) Contact now established, non sub (ENCHANTRESS 0705/21) see submarines reported.

0055 — LA SIBYLLE 0127. Fired 3 torpedoes at supposed U-Boat 0055 53° 23'N 3° 44'E after hunting for 6 hours (ANTIOPE (S/M) 0320/20) (This was LA SIBYLLE)

My 2209 contact now definitely established as shoal of fish (GRIMSBY 0019/21) (probably refers to 1915 above

War Diary

21.5. 1940.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Low Countries and France

German thrust continues to be directed towards the sea with a view to cutting lines of communication of Allied forces north of the break through. Enemy aircraft active along the coast between Flushing and Etaples. 9 Enemy M.T.B's were sighted and attacked by our aircraft off the coast of Holland at 1915.

The Blockships for Ostend and Zeebrugge are still being held at short notice (D.C.N.S. 22 May)

An unknown ship was sunk by a mine outside Havre during the night 20/21, and an oiler was sunk in the Dunkirk area. The Port of Havre is closed.

NORWAY

The G.O.C.,N.W.E.F. reports that he cannot hold himself responsible for the safety of his force if it is reduced as suggested by the War Office, and the enemy excercises his undoubted ability to attack. If H.M. Govt. decide that Northern Norway must continue to be held with diminished resources laid down then he will make every effort; but he cannot pretend there is any reasonable certainty of his being able to achieve the object given him in his instructions. The morale of both the Naval and Military forces is being steadily undermined by German air superiority and is causing anxiety. The air forces envisaged are insufficient, whilst the A.A. artillery which the War Office propose to supply amounts to only one third of the original estimate prepared by the General Staff and and less than half of General Anchinleck's considered demand. (N.W.E.F G 136 21/5 to W.O.)

Swedish Minister in Berlin on 18/5 was presented by Ribbentrop with further strongly worded demands to allow sealed consignments of food for German forces at Narvik to pass through Sweden. This has been met by obstinate refusal. (D.N.I., 0027/21)

The Gladiators having flown off FURIOUS, all three carriers are going south from the Narvik area. GLORIOUS will fuel and return to fly off her Hurricanes. (M.S.M.)

During the night 20/21st two store-ships were

lost/

SITUATION REPORT

Norway, Contd.

lost by bombing in the Narvik area; PEMBROKE COAST with petrol was set on fire and BALTEAKO was holed on waterline and beached. Between 20 and 30 M.V's in Harstad anchorage are being frequently bombed. (D.C.N.S. 22 May)

Iceland

The original party of R.M's who landed in Iceland and have since been relieved by troops left Reykjavik for the Clyde at 2200/21 in FRANCONIA and LANCASTRIA with two destroyers and the damaged GUARDIAN.

British Air Activity

Bad weather delayed air patrols of C.C. in Northern area till late p.m./21 when all normal patrols were flown. All southern patrols were flown; and many successful attacks were carried out by Bomber and Fighter Commands. Sixteen aircraft went out on Minelaying operations; and the C.C. also attacked Stavanger and Varnes aerodromes. 22 aircraft attacked the oil tanks at Rotterdam during the night 20/21 and estimated that 15 hits were obtained.

Enemy Air Activity

There has been a marked uncrease of transport aircraft to Baltic stations; and two aircraft from a reconnaissance unit of the High Command were operating at Putnitz on the Baltic coast. The total confirmed German aircraft losses up to an including 20th May are 756, not including any brought down by B.A.F.F. during past three days. (Air Ministry to M.Qs 1800/21)

U-Boats

There are now several U boats at sea whose destinations and objectives cannot be confidently estimated, but important developements may be pending.

A Swedish vessel of 5000 tons was torpedoed after due warning off the Hebrides early on 19/5 and her master has reported that the U-boat concerned was of 750 tons, appeared to be brand new, and that it went off to the S.W.

Two or possibly 3 U boats are known to be west of Iceland proceeding south.

War Diary

21.5.1940
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Italian Situation

Italy continues to increase her state of preparedness

Signor Mussolini has replied to President Roosevelt's latest message that latter as realist must understand two fundamental facts. 1. Italy is and intends to remain allied with Germany. 2. She cannot remain absent when fate of Europe is at stake. During last 48 hours it is considered that liklihood of Italy entering war has increased, but cannot be regarded as certainty. Appears unlikely she will take any action for next five days. (D.N.I ., 0027/21)

The Admiralty have instructed C. in C., Med. to institute a submarine patrol off Crete to forestall any attempted landing.

C. in C., A & W.I. envisages the possibility that Italian submarines and disguised raiders may commence to operate before any declaration of war.

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War Diary

21.5.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Patrol off Aldeburgh — For the present 2 destroyers are to patrol near Aldeburgh Light Float being relieved every 24 hours (C. in C., Nore 1239/21)

Patrol off Firth of Forth — Destroyer patrol established between 54 and 54BBuoy (C. in C., Rosyth 2152/21)

C. in C., Rosyth 1851/603 of 15/5 and Admiralty 0221/8/5 (summary of experience against aircraft in Norway) strongly urge that A/A practice facilities may be improved so that advantage may be taken of summer months. (C. in C., H.F. 1612/21)

Movements.

GALATEA ARETHUSA — To sail fro Humber not later than a.m./22 (C. in C., Nore 1212/21)

PROTECTOR — To leave Plymouth for Gibraltar a.m./28 (C. in C., Rosyth 1039/21)

Sail 3 destroyers for Dover to be placed under orders of V.A. Dover, temporarily (D.O.D. (H) 1444/21 to C. in C., Nore)

VENOMOUS — Sailed (from Sangatte) with refugees and stores (VENOMOUS 1430/21, 1500/21, N.O.I.C. Dover 1432/21)

VIMY, WINDSOR proceed to Dover (C. in C., Nore 1539/21 to F.O. Humber)

S.10. Submarines — 10th Flotilla and JULES VERNE to go to Dundee. Obvious difficulties in operating three flotillas from Rosyth. (S.3, 1213/21)

Operation X.D.

My 2312/20 Parties are to be at immediate notice for leaving Chatham. (D.O.D.(H) 1310/21) My 1310/21 Parties are to be at 2 hours notice (D.O.D.(H) 1910/21)

Operation Lyster.

Do not wait for me, can catch you up. Can anchor but cannot weigh (Transeas 0950/21 to VEGA)

2 M.T.B's to join VEGA now anchored at Princes Channel and act under orders of F.O.D.E. maximum fuel to be carried but not torpedoes or depth charges (C. in C., Nore 1019/23 to N.O.I.C. Harwich)

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Lyster Contd.

Tugs for F.O.D.E. (C C R T 1106/21) concur with proposals in your 0400 M.T.B's have been detailed (C. in C., Nore 1210/21 to F.O.D.E.,VEGA)

Expect to arrive N. Goodwin 1500 (F.O.D.E. 1323/21)

Return to anchoage and be at 4 hours notice. (C. in C., Nore 1330/21 to F.O.D.E.)

All ships of forces D and E weigh at daylight 22/5 and proceed to anchor at Great Nore (C. in C., Nore 2010/21)

Operation DF. If possible, arrange for two motor boats at Ostend only to meet ships as they approach harbour for landing shore demolition parties. (D.M.S., to Dunkerque to pass to Comdr. Peterson, 1355/21)

Operation Quixote

Group C completed and arrived Yarmouth 0130/21 (JACKAL 0130/21)

Request search may be made for HECTOR if not already located (JACKAL0305/21)

HECTOR approaching Yarmouth (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0603/21)

Test of Results

From N.O.I.C. Yarmouth's test appears to show that all cables are cut except Balton Borkum No 2 and Lowestoft Borkum (Great Yarmouth 1515/21)

Further Cables to be cut

ALERT to cut Dumpton Gap-Borkum cable about 10 miles to seaward as soon as possible. (D A/S W 2018/21)

It has been decided to cut the following cables using QUIXOTE trawlers and personnel:-

Lowestoft to Zandvoort- one
Bennaern to Zandvoort- 2
Aldeburgh to Dordeburg - 4

(D A/S W 2140/21)

Return to Harwich (C. in C., Nore 1223/21 to JACKAL, JAVELIN, JAGUAR)

War Diary

21/5/1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Hunter

(1) If attack by enemy M.T.B's is reported or expected C. in C., Nore will make signal "carry out operation Hunter" followed if possible by position.

(2)-(4) Arrangements. (5) Action to be taken by destroyers, corvettes, trawlers, reserve tugs, M.T.B's. (C. in C., Nore 1546/21)

War Diary

21/5/1940.
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War Diary

21.5.1940
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Low Countries & France.

Northern Ports

In event of serious damage to the Northern ports it might become essential to land supplies on the beach. Please give preparations for this your immediate and serious consideration in conjunction with Adty. and W.O. Labour and special craft would be required (P.S.T.O. French Ports 1555/21 to D of S.T., Min. of Shipping)

All C.B's destroyed by fire in emergency. (N.C.S.O. Dieppe 2055/21)

Troops and Anti tank guns for Boulogne

Request you will detail a destroyer to transport 8 anit-tank guns, 100 men and 1200 round of ammunition to Boulogne. Men and guns are already at Dover, but ammunition will not arrive before 1400. D.O.D. (H) 1144/21)

Demolitions at Ostend & Zeebrugge

French military mission state they do not propose to carry out demolitions at Ostend and Zeebrugge at present. Vital importance of these ports at present. (No 9(~~Newhaven~~) Needham Military Mission H.N. 102 2045/21)

Refugees

Sailed with approx. 200 refugees and stores. Expect to arrive Dover 1535. (VENOMOUS, 1430/21) Are refugees on board? (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1447/21) Your 1447, all refugees, also crew and stores from Sangatte on board. (VENOMOUS,1500/21)

Fighter Patrols over French Ports

Consider that if present transport operations are to be carried out with any success it is a vital necessity that continuous fighter patrols should be maintained over Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk in daylight for the present in order that these ports may be kept open (V.A. Dover, 1505, 1614/21)

Operations Norway

British Petrol Stock destroyed

Result of this evening's raid. PEMBROKE COAST on fire with petrol still on board. total loss. Oil wharves burning. BALTRAKO holed waterline and beached. (R.A., Narvik, 0145/21)

Gladiators

Your 2L50 and 0434/21. Gladiators arrived Weather conditions now unsuitable (F.O. Narvik, 0901/21)

SOUTHAMPTON

To proceed to Narvik area (C. in C., H.F. 1045/21) (To replace AURORA, ENTERPRISE)

War Diary

21.5.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Norway, Contd.

3 Pdr. guns — Asking for 6 to be sent to R.A. Narvik (D.N.O. 1130/21 to C. in C., Rosyth) Suspend action (D.N.O. 1919/21)

BANDIT — To proceed to Narvik area to tow ESKIMO (C. in C., H.F. 1206/21)

ENTERPRISE — Leaving for England shortly. To embark Norwegian gold for passage forthwith (F.O. Narvik 1914/21)

COXWOLD — To sail for Harstad as soon as possible owing to loss of PEMBROKE COAST (D.O.D. (H) 2319/21)

Aerodromes — Stop all work on sites Bodo area. Future policy as regards use of Bodo for advanced landing area now under review. (Air Min. 1750/21)

Convoy — French store ship ARMENIER is to be included in convoy N.S. 4. (D.O.D.(H), 1415/21)

Oil Storage at Bergen — N.O.I.C., Lerwick states information from Norwegian refugees from Bergen that up to a.m./18 petroleum storage tanks have been destroyed by our aircraft as follows:

At Florvaagpynt opposite Kvarven Lt 6 tanks out of 10. At Skaalevik 1/2 mile S.W. of Kvarven, a considerable number of tanks but figure not known.

There are storage tanks near Klampevik 85 miles 284 degrees from Kvarven and also at Lillevaag 3 miles 33 degrees from Kvarven which have not been attacked. It is known th that some of these are petrol but no details are available. 1314/21 Ends. (A.C.O.S. 1728/21)

Norwegian Gold — Arrange for ENTERPRISE to embark Norwegian Gold for passage forthwith. (F.O. Narvik, to C.S.I. 1914/21)

North Norway

Possibility of enemy expeditionary force — C.S.I. reports possibility of considerable enemy forces accompanied by U-Boats due N. Norway via White sea canal last week May. Russia may aid with 14 destroyers 24 submarines. Russian aircraft identical with German type frequently reconnoitring. F.O. Narvik 1800/21)

HOME COMMANDS

Operation-North Norway Contd.

Possibility of Enemy expeditionary Force, Contd.

Part 2 of 1800. Little resistance can be expected by Norwegian troops. High speed asdic vessels and aircraft badly needed. submarine patrols Tana, Lajsef, Porsanger will be established with TRUANT and 2 Norwegian submarines when available. To meet threat of enemy expeditionary force F.O.I.C.S. requires additional 4 destroyers and 2 British submarines, also aircraft and A/A guns. (F.O. Narvik 1804/21)

MONARCH OF BERMUDA
ROYAL SCOTSMAN

Of N.P.4 to be sailed to arrive Tromso 26/5 or 27/5 if escort available (F.O. Narvik 2146/21)

Iceland

Troop Landing

Officer and 40 men of 1st/5th Bn., W Yorkshire Regt., satisfactorily established in Seidis Fiord. (DISCOVERY 2 1941/21)

Patrol

Your 1155/21 (SUBIN intercepted with British troops on board for escort in) SUDIN is ship reported .O
(re
(V.A

Movements

GUARDIAN, FOXHOUND, HAVANT, FRANCONIA, and LANCASTRIA sailed for Clyde 2030 (N.D.I.C. Iceland, 2220/21)

Aircraft Carriers

Aircraft Landed

16 Gladiators landed Bardufoss. 5 Swordfish left for FURIOUS 2 Gladiators 1 Swordfish overdue. Return to Scapa. (F.O., Narvik, to FURIOUS, 1117/21)

re GLORIOUS 1121/21. If Gladiators not flown off by 0800/21 arrange for GLORIOUS to refuel in Northern waters (1st S.L. 0910/21 to F.O. Narvik) Cancel my 0910/21 (D.S.O. 1347/21)

Operation completed. 16 Aircraft of 263 Sqdn. arrived Bardufoss. 2 Gladiators and 1 Swordfish failed to arrived, missing. (FURIOUS, 1149/21)

Propose detaching GLORIOUS to oil from GREAT EMPEROR proceeding myself to Scapa (FURIOUS 1211/21)

Admiralty 1347/21 FURIOUS, GLORIOUS, proceeding to Scapa (FURIOUS 1730/21(escort (V.A. (A) 1920/21)

Requirements for aircraft carriers in near future. (1st. S.L. 1932/21)

War Diary

21.5.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Submarines

Targets are likely to be few and far between in zones submarines are now patrolling. Maintain one River class submarine on patrol in area off Trondheim to Statlander (C. in C., H.F. 1041/21, V.A.S. 1331/21)

Probability of Invasion

Your 1045/21 dis positions referred to in my 1456/17 were made after ascertaining that in Admiralty's view the most serious threat at the moment was possibility of seaborne invasion of England.

(b) Owing to (1) recent breakdowns in French submarines, (2) necessity of relieving strain on our submarines, (3) despatch of TRUANT and shortly SEVERN to Tromso area the number of submarines in patrol areas given in my 1456/17 are even now too few properly to compete with threat of invasion of England. C.D. Proposals (V.A.S. 1332/21 to C. in C., H.F.)

SNAPPER, CALYPSO, SUNFISH to join convoys FN 77,78,79 (C. in C., Rosyth 1026/21 2208/21)

Dutch Warships

FLORES

Request Dutch FLORES be lent to Nore Command where she should prove very useful in Thames Estuary. (C. in C., Nore, 1700/21)

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity

Rotterdam — Oil tanks (operation 19) attacked by 22 aircraft 2330/20 to 0050/21. 15 hits estimated. No enemy aircraft opposition. No damage to our aircraft except slight damage to one tailplane. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0630/21, 0500/21).

Air searches — All air searches postponed owing to weather except escort for RESOLUTION (C. in C., Rosyth, 0630/21).

M.T.Bs Attacked — 9 M.T.Bs in position 52:49 N., 4:15 E. attacked by 3 aircraft at 1915. 2 dive bombing attacks made and 1 aircraft got severe bursts of M.G. fire into leading M.T.B. 1 aircraft failed to return. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 2325/21).

Vaernes — Photographs confirm large number of aircraft probably JU.88 on Vaernes aerodrome, which was attacked by Hudsons on night of 19/20. (D.N.A.D. to V.A.A., 1631/21).

Enemy Air Activity

PEMBROKE COAST — 625 tons, attacked during night of 20-21/5 in Vaagsfiord set on fire, probably total loss (R.A. Narvik, 0145/21).

VENOMOUS — Bombed, Calais Harbour (VENOMOUS 1422/21).

BURKE — Bombed 180 N. Foreland (BURKE 1916/21).

BELGRAVIAN — British, 3136 tons, severely bombed during night of May 21-22. Anchored six miles off Dungeness. (N. Foreland Radio, 0243/22).

War Diary

21.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

MAVIS — British (935 tons) was bombed and sunk 20/5 off Calais. Master w., 4 crew k.
Enemy air activity 2000/20 to 2000/21.

A/S trawlers)
LADY PHILOMENA,) Bombed and damaged by near misses.
KINGSTON OLIVINE)

Other A/S trawlers bombed on patrol but undamaged.

R.F.A. BERTA) Bombed off Beachy Head, undamaged.
BATAVIA II)
(refugee ship)

BURKE — Bombed off N. Foreland and bombs dropped in Downs anchorage.

VENOMOUS — Bombed in Calais.

KEITH — Bombed in Dunkirk.

GREY MIST — Bombed in Boulogne.

WILD SWAN — Bombed on N. Goodwin patrol.

Dunkirk)
Calais) Repeatedly bombed during this period.
Boulogne) (V.A. Dover, 1044/22).

Havre — Aircraft laid 6 to 8 mines last night.
Port closed until the channel is cleared.
No bombs dropped. Dunkirk to Boulogne heavily bombed last night and much German naval activity in Norderney area.
(B.N.L.O. Marceau 1015/21).

War Diary

21.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Mine exploded — Magnetic mine exploded 95° Humber Lt. V. 18 cables 1530/21 (F.O. Humber, 1904/21).

Clyde — Reinforcement of Clyde sweepers essential (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2234/21).

Own Minelaying — Six mines laid off Ems by C.C. last night (M.S.M., 22/5).

Shipping

Convoys N.P.4, N.S.4 — Not to sail until further orders. (D.O.D.(H) 1836/21).

Ocean convoys — Positions (D.C. 1915/21).

Weather

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea	N.E. or N., light to moderate fresh locally.	Rain & fog patches in North, cloudy elsewhere.	Generally moderate, poor in fog.
Horns Reef	N.N.E. moderate or fresh.	Cloudy with occasional rain.	Moderate to good.
Channel	N.E. or E. light to moderate.	Fine to cloudy.	Generally good.
W. Approaches	E.N.E. light to moderate.	Fine.	Good.
Coast of Norway, 60-65 N.	N.E., light to moderate.	Cloudy, fog patches in South.	Mainly good except for fog patches.
65-70 N.	W. moderate to fresh, strong locally.	Rain or showers. Fog Patches.	Moderate. Poor in fog.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

21.5.40.
Tuesday.

Enemy Intelligence

Netherlands M.T.Bs. — One enemy M.T.B. reported 18' West of Yjmuiden at 0420/21 and six others 14' West of Texel at 0430/21. (I.C. 0456/40). 3 Hudsons to attack (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0425/21). (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0617/21). 9 M.T.Bs in position CPOK 4915 at 1915/21, attacked by aircraft (see air).

Heligoland Bight — Aircraft reported two destroyers app. 10 miles 342° from Norderney at 0217/21 (I.C. 0456/40).

Fishing Craft — Fishing vessels known to be German have been sighted in Zone A2, A3, and A5, with word DANMARK painted in white on side, 2 triangular white sails, 2 masts, wireless aerial, wheelhouse aft. (V.A.S. 0052/21).

M.T.B. — B.N.L.O., Dunkirk reports French destroyer SIROCCO sighted M.T.B. believed to be German N.N.W. of Mardyck last night. Later a German torpedo was washed up at ~~Ieon~~ Plage, may have been fired by M.T.B. details of torpedo. (V.A. Dover, 1122/21).

Miscellaneous

Dundee — Examination service has been commenced at Dundee pm/21. (N.O.I.C., Dundee, 1658/21).

Dutch recognition signals — Dutch recognition signasl are to be treated as suspect. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1905/21).

Stopping Tanks — For consideration of H.M. Govt. My 1016/20. Cotton or other material fluff used as cloud would clog air intake filter of enemy's tanks if so fitted and so stop engines. Carborundum addition to cotton cloud necessary to prevent enemy discarding filter under penalty of carborundum entering cylinders. (N.C.S.O. Tampico, 1033/21).

Suspicious ship — Reported by KINGSTON ONYX off Glettinganes. Chased by CIRCASSIA, KINGSTON TURQUOISE. Disappeared in fog (KINGSTON ONYX 1100/21, CIRCASSIA 1115/21).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

MALCOLM	To sail for Portsmouth to make good minor damage caused by bomb (V.A. Dover, 1201/21).
VANSITTART	Damage from bombing. Suggest repair and refit concurrently (R.A.(D) 1936/21).
PROCYON	Which struck a mine while on passage from Gotenburg to Baltic has put into Trelleborg for repairs.

Foreign Stations

RAMILLIES	Condition is such that refit and docking are essentail. Intend to undertake this forthwith at Alexandria. (C. in C., Med., 1613/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

A.M.C. to proceed to Azores

Sail one A.M.C. of group 7 to Azores as soon as possible. To be capable of remaining in area for some days. Further instructions will follow. (A.C.N.S. (A) 1411/21 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Detain Dutch tankers entering Medit. en route for Italy pending decision of Dutch Govt. (D.T.D. 2313/21 to C.O.C.N.A.).

South Atlantic

Suspected Raider

Adty. 1545/20. Ship using call sign JEGD heard at 2020/11/5 bearing 315° from Cape Point. At this time Japanese JEGD (ARABIA MARU) was on passage from Port Elizabeth to Capetown. Possibility of transmission emanating from enemy vessel N.W. Cape Point has been accepted. (C. in C., S.A. 1135/21).

Mediterranean

Cruisers

Asking if he can spare any C and D class cruisers in view of cruiser reinforcements coming from E.I. station, as troop movements in Atlantic and Indian Oceans leave little except A.M.Cs for cruiser and anti-raider duties. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 0911/21).

Shipping

Present position in Eastern Mediterranean. (C. in C., Med. 1219/21).

Submarine patrol off Crete

To be instituted now, although there is no appreciable change in situation. (1st S.L. 0106/21 to C. in C., Med.).

Italian Ships

Telegram No.1175. Failing receipt of instructions to contrary I am carrying out usual ~~xxx~~ contraband control procedure with Italian OCEANIA now in harbour and any others that may arrive. (C.C.S.O., Gib., 1145/21). Approved (D.E.W.D. 1511/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (contd.)

Suez Canal, Possible Blocking. A report, low graded, received that when Italian seaplane carrier MIRAGLIA passes through the Canal on or about 25/5 en route for Massawa she may endeavour to scuttle ship and block Canal. Difficult with present state of tension to delay a warship. Can you suggest any reason for temporarily delaying her passage, or if this is not possible, any means for preventing her blocking canal should she endeavour to do so. (1st S.L., to C. in C. Med., 2342/21).

Italian Tankers To avoid diversion of tankers carrying oil for Italian Govt. from Black Sea ports, H.M. Ambassador, Rome, will in future inform you direct of dates of sailing and relevant particulars so that you may instruct patrols to pass ships subject indentification. As we reserve right also to verify cargoes, request you will periodically order this to be done at sea. (D.E.W.D., 1854/21, to C. in C., Med.).

MIRAGLIA Aircraft-carrier Miraglia left this afternoon. Present complement said to be thirty planes. (Consul, Tripoli, 1945/21).

Routeing of Shipping Summary of instructions now in force regarding British and Norwegian shipping which would normally proceed into or through Mediterranean.

(a) All westbound through Medit. traffic to be routed via Cape except ships with Medit. cargoes which are to proceed to Mombasa for orders or will be held at Colombo.

(b) Tankers arriving Abadan to load are to be routed to U.K. via Cape.

(c) Northbound tankers on Adty. charter at Aden 20/5 proceed Suez.

(d) Southbound shipping at Suez 20/5 continue voyage.

(e) Westbound shipping in Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Cyprus to be held pending further orders.

(f) Eastbound shipping at or arriving at Gib. to be held. (D.T.D. 1603/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (contd.)

Aircraft over Egypt — Egyptian Govt. have informed Italian Legation that instructions issued by the Military Authorities no foreign military aircraft allowed to fly over Egypt or the Sudan until further orders and have made it clear that this applies to all flights including those already sanctioned, and public notice issued that aircraft flying over prohibited zones will be fired at with live ammunition, after one warning shot. R.A. Alexandria is being kept informed by H.M. Representative, Cairo, of above arrangements, and also about methods of control of civil aircraft. (Hd. of M., 1830/21)

East Indies

Kismayu Patrol — Orders for CARTHAGE, RANCHI (C. in C., E.I. 0846Z/21).

Routeing of ships via Cape of Good Hope — Your 0808/17 approved (D.T.D. 2106/21 to C. in C., E.I.).

Operation Orders — East Indies Operational Orders 3, 4, and 6 are in force adapted to suit force available. (C. in C., E.I., 1858/21) Amendments (C. in C., E.I. 0759Z/21).

DORYSSA — Tanker with Adty. cargo. Sailed for Suez 1430Z/21. Another (corrupt groups) sailed 0725Z/21).

America & West Indies

Bermuda Convoys — Concur N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1506/20. Starting with B H X 46, ships in Bermuda Convoy section will always be given an odd number of miles to starboard of standard route. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2132/21).

Italian Fishing — British Vice-Consul, Saint Pierre, reports 3 Italian fishing vessels normally operating Newfoundland Bank instructed to abandon fishing and return to Italy immediately, arriving there before June 15. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0957/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Danish Seamen — Your 1302/18. Interference at Gib. with Danish seamen ex S.S. ERRIA returning home on CONTE DI SAVOIA is very improbable, but it is not our policy to issue safe conducts. If Master of ERRIA will not sail for Vancouver without an express guarantee for these men, then in this instance guarantee is to be given. (Hd. of M., to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1552/21).

VAN KINSBERGEN — Dutch cruiser. Future employment (A.C.N.S.(A) XXX 2340/21).

Italian Submarine menace — Italian situation very serious. Possibly Italian submarines may commence to operate before declaration of war. Italy possesses some submarines of large endurance which may appear in West Atlantic and attack by disguised raiders in this area must also be regarded as possible. Utmost vigilance should be exercised. (C. in C., A.W.I., to R.A.3 B.S., etc., 1129/16, repeated to Adty. for information, 21/5).

REVENGE — Adty. 1326/21. In these circimstances, arrival June 6 will suffice. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to inform REVENGE. (F.O.3 B.S., to Adty., 1441/21).

Australia

Italian Shipping — Reporting intercepted radio signals to Italian merchant ships CONTE ROSSO, CHISONE and ALMERIA. (D.N.I., Melbourne, 0901Z/21).

War Diary

21.5.40.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

WARTBURG — 900 G.T. 300 cases of arms shipped in her from Stettin to Tallin 18 May. (I.C. 0458/40)

FALKENFELS — 6320 G.T. Baltic to Travemunde. Instructed 0825/21 to report time of arrival. (I.C. 0458/40).

AUGUST BOLTEN	3665 G.T.	These ships are reported shut in at Delfzyl by the blocking operations carried out there by the Dutch on 10th May. (I.C. 0458/40).
BOLTEN HAGEN	3335 G.T.	
CASABLANCA	2313 G.T.	
JERSEEK	2900 G.T.	
NORDLICHT	possibly a lighter	
PALERMO	1461 G.T.	
THIELBEK	1883/G.T.	
WITTEKIND	4029 G.T.	
WOLFGANG L.M. RUSS	3750 G.T.	
ZEUS	2500 G.T.	

Mediterranean

NORBURG — Arrived Galatz 20/5 (I.C. 0458/40).

CORDELIA)
DELOS)
YALOVA) — Were at Batum on 19/5 (I.C. 0458/40).

America & West Indies

RHAKOTIS — 6753 G.T., which sailed Callao 16/5 was reported by Dutch ship SOCRATES at 1400/21 in approx. 23° S. 70:30 W. estimated course 160° speed 10 knots. (I.C. 0458/40).

War Diary

21.5.1940.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

FORTH FISHER — British (574 tons) Sunk by magnetic mines east of Boulogne Pier Head within ½ mile of land at 1840. Rescue ship ss SPARTA bombed. Master and 5 others saved, 5 survivors landed Deal. (N.O.I.C., Ramsgate, 0640/22, 0903/22)

LE NIGER — French naval tanker, sunk off Dunkirk (? mined) while making for the Downs shortly after midnight 20/21/5. Seven men missing from crew of 114. Said to have had a cargo of about 5,000 tons on board. (D.S.)

Submarines Reported

0724 — 50° 44'N., 00°10'E, 3 m W from Beachy Head reported by D/C.

0230 — Icelandic trawler reports sighted submarine on surface off Adalvyk steering S.E. (grading B 4) N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2007/21 later report of unidentified submarine was sighted by reliable fishermen in 66° 25'N 23° 20'W at about 0300/21. Steering S.W. no markings observed and it subsiquently submerged. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2254/22)

Azores — 21/5, time unknown, coast watcher San Miguel sighted submarine submerged but showing one metre of periscope. Outline of submerged submarine going east was sighted from Feiteiras in South Island. (A.O.) (Lisbon, 1745/21)

0724 — 52° 52'N 1° 37'E. 108° Cromer 12° Sighted by aircraft in a Q.Z area (IC 0457/40) (A/C 206 Sqdn., 0724/21) JACKAL ordered to hunt. (C. in C., Nore, 0808/21) Cancel my 0808 (C. in C., Nore 0820)

Estimate dispositions — Majority of U boats appear to be still in harbour but are available for operations. Two or three off Ireland. Possibly one in Channel. (D.D.I.C, 1412/21)

War Diary

22.5.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

East Coast	76 Naval 6" guns are being provided for East Coast defences, but there are no defences in Eire.
French Ports	General Brownrigg and V.A. Dover will co-ordinate Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne with a view to disposing military forces to best advantage.
Boulogne	Two battalions Irish Guards and an anti-tank battery successfully landed at Boulogne A.M. 22nd. VENEMOUS with 200 refugees, mostly women and children, escorted MONA'S QUEEN with 2000 British troops from France to Dover. Fighter air escort provided throughout. Panic reigns; inhabitants are streaming along the Calais road.
Calais	Situation still well in hand; but four magnetic mines, in pairs, have been exploded in the approaches. S.S. CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH has arrived with tanks; and WINDSOR and VENETIA are maintaining contact off the port.
Dunkirk	Situation reported critical, presumably due to recent incessant air attacks. German column reported near. Admiral Nord and B.N.L.O. have destroyed secret books, etc.
French coast general	27 enemy aircraft were shot down 22/5 between Dunkirk and Boulogne. Sangatte Loop Station has been dismantled and abandoned.
German Naval Movements	More German M.T.B.'s have been sighted off the coast of Holland and minesweepers north of the German declared mined area. German W/T traffic indicated considerable movements in the Baltic, and it is possible there may have been a movement of shipping from the Baltic to the North Sea. W/T appears also to have been connected with activity in the lower half of the Heligoland Bight. (I.C. 0459/40).

War Diary

22.5.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Norway.

With their occupation of Mo the Germans possess an aerodrome from which they can increase their aircraft operations; and there are no decklanding pilots in Northern Norway who can fly Gladiators or Hurricanes if required.

Home Commands

British Air Activity

At 0545 an aircraft patrol sighted eight armed M.V.'s in the North Sea, and a Bomber flight attacked them.

For the second day in succession few patrols were flown owing to low visibility.

Enemy Air Activity

One aircraft was detected over central London 0100/22 (D.C.N.S. 22 May).

War Diary

17.5.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

	Submarines Reported
0245	Westward of German Minefield, North Sea. Position indefinte. (I.C.,0453/40)
1255) 1309)	4 miles N.E. of N Foreland 51° 30'N 1° 35'E, P/S seen by observer corps from shore. 24 (I.C. 0454/40)
1921	54° 10'N 6° 10' E indefinite (I.C. 0454/4)
Estimate Dispositions	Absence of indications of U/Bs at sea suggests a considerable number are available for any special operations (D.D.I.C., 1341/17)

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Jersey Airport — Jersey Airport particularly vulnerable to bomb attack owing to ease of approach from sea and weak A A. defence. Arrangements proposed. (R.A.N.A.S., 1227/22).

Merchant A/A Defence — Suggest all merchant navy ships fitted with A/A guns are manned in P.L.A. areas continuously. (Morse, 0815/22).

Portland Dorset — Your 1417/20. Home Office are being asked to make County of Dorset a coastal prohibited zone, as a matter of urgency. Request for Portland to be made protected area for aliens was made on May 8. (Head of N.L., to C. in C., Portsmouth, 1144/22).

Immobilisation of Home Ports — Reference Adty. 2250/20 primary object of scheme is to deny to enemy all port facilities for off-loading motor transport and tanks even if this will immobilise the port for more than ten days. Request you co-operate with military and dock authorities to prepare schemes accordingly. (Adty to C. in C., Rosyth 0001/22).

C.G. Patrols — Extra C.G. patrols are operating on East coast between War Watching Stations (D. of L.D. 1953/22).

Dundee — Impracticable to sink ships in approaches to close port. Most vulnerable. Controlled mine-field proposed (C. in C., Rosyth, 1935/22).

Moray Firth — Unguarded aerodromes and landing grounds. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1839/22).

Clyde — Your 1107/17. Precautions against concealed troops on board ships arriving. (A.C.N.S. 2034/22 to F.O.I.C., Greenock.)

War Diary

17.5.1940
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

America & West Indies

RHAKOTIS

My 1839/16 RHAKOTIS also commenced painting superstructure grey before sailing. (S.O.I., Callao 1637/17)

Ships at Tampico
CHILOCO
EDARWALD
PERYGIA
RHEIN

Re press reports 15/5 of imminence of sailing of German ships from Tampico it has been confirmed from Tampico that ships have been ready to sail for a long time, but there is no indication that they intend to sail immediately. (17/5) (I.C.0454/40)

War Diary

22.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Movements — French Warship and Convoy positions 1200/22 (Adty. to C. in C., W.A. 0134/22).

Night patrol — ARROW, FORTUNE patrol during night on meridian 1° W. between 58° N. and 59° N. to intercept any suspicious vessels including fishing vessels and also M.T.B.'s and U-boats. Leave patrol 0600/23 and return to Scapa. (R.A.(D) 1927/22).

Striking Force (Patrol A Division) — VANQUISHER, MONTROSE proceed towards 49:30 N., 11:0 W. and act as striking force within 50 miles of this position (C. in C., W.A., 1921/22).

Destroyer for special duty — 1 destroyer and 1 M.T.B. to be at ½ hour's notice for special duty by 1700/22 (C. in C., Nore, 1450/22 to F.O.I.C., Harwich).

Dover Patrols — For night 22/23 (N.O.I.C., Harwich, 1924/22).

Submarines — Positions 0600/23 (V.A.S., 1807/22, D.C., 2131/22)

A/A Ships — Your 1420/22. In view of possible vital need for A/A ships in Channel area in near future, request CALCUTTA's destination be altered to Portsmouth, where she should join C.S.2 and be placed temporarily under orders of C. in C. Nore, (D.O.D.(H), 1844/22).

Operation Lamp

Operation Lamp, will be carried out as ordered (F.O., Humber, 1555/22 to Adty.)

CODRINGTON and JAGUAR will be near 53:15 N. 3:15 E. from 1800/23 to 0300/24 to act in support of operation concerned if required. This operation which concerns SALMON only takes place west of zone A5 between times stated. (R.A.(S) 1721/22 to submarines on patrol).

Carry out operation Lamp as previously arranged (R.A.(S) 1722/22 to SALMON).

Your 1723 (received as 1722/22) Light vessel concerned believed removed (SALMON 2355/22 to R.A.(S)).

War Diary

17.5.1940.
Friday

FORSIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies Contd.

Transport and escort required for 4800 troops ready at Halifax 3/6 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to Admiralty, 1809/16)

Your 0222/12, (One destroyer required to escort troop transport to Jamaica) After local escort duties 24/5 one destroyer will be at your disposal. Assume you will issue orders regarding when she will part company from convoy and return to Bermuda.

Your 1320/16, (date by which H.M.S. DIOMEDE is required to escort troop transport) Military unit sailing in 2 parts in LADY DRAKE first sailing 24th May and second about 6th June from Halifax. (C.N.S.Ottawa 1713/17 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

C.N.S. Ottawa 1713 17th May if EMERALD id not required to supplement REVENGE as escort for T.C. 5 it is probable she could be made available as escort for second part if this would help. (R.A. 3 B.S. 18/42/17 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Australia

U.S.3.

Sailed from Freemantle with following personnel QUEEN MARY 4381, AQUITANIA 3200, EMPRESS OF BRITAIN 1900, MAURITANIA 2300, EMPRESS of CANADA 1300, EMPRESS OF JAPAN 1150, ANDES 1450. Each ship provisioned for 36 days all types plus seven days dry stores. (Australian C.N. Board to C. in C., South Atlantic 1449Z/16)

My 0432Z/9 in view of Italian situation should these vessels be routed via Cape Town (A.C.N.B. 0144Z/17 to Admiralty

AUSTRALIA

Admiralty 1730/5 Commonwealth Govt. agree to H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA being made suitable for service on 19th June for period of not less than year in exchange for an 8-in cruiser of R.N., C.N.B., appreciate that arrangement may not be practicable for some time. (A.C.N.B. 1059Z/17)

China

Obliterating M.V's Names etc.,

S.O.(1)'s to inform shipping that as indiscriminate attack is unlikely on China Station, the instructions that ships are to obliterate names and port

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Quentin" (Cutting of Cables).

Orders Operation Quentin trawlers to be sailed to commence sweeping daylight 23/5 in accordance with Adty. 2140/21 and 1841/22 except that longitude in para. 2 (B) of 2140/21 is to be amended to read 1:57 E. Escort will not be provided but 2 destroyers will be on patrol near. Air co-operation asked for (C. in C., Nore, 2223/22 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

Operation XD

Orders Parties for F and G are to be ready to embark at Dover 1000/23. V.A., Dover to sail them for Calais and Boulogne (D.O.D.(H) 1855/22 to C. in C., Nore, etc.). Party E for Dunkirk also embark at Dover 1800/23 (D.D.O.D. 0015/23).

Captain Dangerfield's Operation

My 1156/20. WESTCOVE left Hull in convoy pm/21. GOURKO left Hull am/22. EDU. NISSEN due Chatham today from Gravesend (Adty. 1155/22 to C. in C., Nore, for Capt. Dangerfield).

My 1156/20. RIVER TYNE due Plymouth pm/22. JACOBUS and KAUPO left Tyne in convoy pm/21 (Adty. 1156/22 to C. in C. W.A. for Capt. Dangerfield).
My 1156/20. MOYLE & EMERALD WINGS left Tyne in convoy pm/21. HOLLAND leaves Tyne pm/22 (Adty. 1157/22 to C. in C., Portsmouth for Capt. Dangerfield).

Operation Dynamo

Four empty Dutch coasters in Poole 200-300 tons to be sent immediately to Southampton to load military supplies. Will be manned by naval crews and work under War Office. As many of remainder as are in light condition, will be taken over and manned by Naval crews and when ready placed at disposal of V.A., Dover. (D.O.D(H), 1730/22 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Four.....

War Diary

17.5.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

German Tanker RUDOLF ALBRECHT (3815 tons built 1922, reciprocating steam engines left Azores 6/5 and has not been reported since, and may therefore be acting as a supply ship. (I.C. 0454/40)

Mediterranean.

Albanian Ports, Defences placed.

Durazzo reports approaches to all Albanian ports have been mined and boom placed at Durazzo Harbour entrance. (S.O.I. Malta to Admiralty 1401/17)

RANGE

French oiler, arrived Gibraltar 17th May 1715 and sailed eastwards 1923 (S.O.I. Gibraltar at Admiralty 2334/17)

Egypt Air Defences

Fifty Hurricanes are being prepared for flying out to Egypt at the end of June. (M.S.M.)

Diversion of Shipping

D.T.D. reported that no more ships were being allowed to enter the Mediterranean. Admiralty tankers west of Aden were continuing to Suez but other traffic was being diverted round the Cape. (MSM)

AASE MAERSK

Managers report that master and officers refuse to sail. Report reason. (D.T.D. 0236/17 to N.O.I.C. Haifa) Fear of reprisals on their families in Denmark (N.O.I.C Haifa 1907/17)

Gibraltar

Understand Colonial Office have ordered evacuation of civil population to be implemented forthwith. No shipping arrangements (D of S T 1045/17)

Reinforcements

Your 1951/15 Intended to sail CARLISLE HEREWARD, HAVOCK, HOSTILE, HERO and IMPERIAL about 2100/17. Captain D.14. in JANUS with JUNO, ZODIAK, ILEX, and KIMBERLEY to sail later when Royal Air Force stores have been embarked. GRIMSBY to sail independently when ready. C. in C. W.A. 1227/17)

re A.A. Defences at Alexandria.

Admiralty 0003/15 (Italian escorts and escorted vessels not to be interfered with) will with hold order as long as

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Dynamo (Contd.)

Four Dutch coasters 200-300 tons in ballast in Port of London to be sent immediately to Deptford. 1730/22 (D.O.D.(H) 1704/22 to C. in C. Nore). The operation for which these ships are being prepared will be known as Dynamo, (D.O.D.(H) 1944/22).

Operations

Low Countries & France.

Food for Refugees — S.S. MARQUIS 795 tons due Ostend day break/23 with food for refugees (D.C. 0520/22).

Boulogne — Clouds are lifting, no fighter aircraft have been seen for some time but may be there. Town and jetty very congested. General is very anxious air protection should be adequate (WHITSHED 0949/22 to N.O.I.C. Dover).

Boulogne — S.T.O. Boulogne, reports sky clearing rapidly. No British aircraft sighted for half an hour. Dock still crowded with troops and equipment (VENOMOUS 1442/22).

Keep Adty. informed of situation at French ports and Havre, Dieppe, Cherbourg at regular intervals (D.C. 1903/22 to B.N.L.O. Marceau).

Havre — Now burning C.B.'s (Formby N.S.C.O. Havre, 1100/22).

Sangatte — Sangatte Loop Station dismantled and abandoned (V.A., Dover, 0020/22).

Refugees — French vessels carrying refugees en masse should be diverted to French western ports. British refugees should be landed. (D. of S.T., 1806/22)

200 refugees evacuated from Boulogne, some British wounded removed from Dunkirk. (D.C., 2056/22).

WOLSEY — Join WILD SWAN off Dunkirk forthwith. Both escort ST. HELIER back to Dover. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 1659/22).

War Diary

17.5.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean Contd..

possible but present situation is most unsatisfactory on account of permission given for Italian bombers to pass through Egypt landing at Alexandria. Squadrons are due 19/5 and 26/5 and I consider warning Government to be urgently asked to withdraw this permission or at least prohibit use of aerodromes near Alexandria. Understand French aircraft are now proceeding via Abadan to Syria so no question of reciprocity arises. (C in C., Med. 1313/17)

East Indies

FALMOUTH — Excessive wear in propeller shaft bush. To dock at Colombo 10/5 (C. in C., E.I. 1436/17)

LEANDER — To remain under East Indies Command for the present. (D.O.D.(F) 0041/17)

CARAIBE — French armed Fleet Auxiliary arrived Durban 1500 16th May from Tulear Madagascar (H.O.I.C. Durban to C. in C., E.I 0805 2/17)

Aden — Understand Colonial Office have ordered evacuation to India of Civil population numbering approx. 180 Europeans and 2000 Indians forthwith. No. ships to be used (D. of S.T. 1038/17)

Shatt-el-Arab — Situation- Italian ships unloading (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1015Z/17)

HILDA — Italian ship with cargo of explosives (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1059/17)

Qutaibi — Air H.Q. Aden 1024/17

U.S. 2. — RANKIN, CURTIN arrived Suez with convoy U.S.2. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal to Admiralty 0927/17)

America and West Indies.

Degaussing. — Large numbers of ships arriving for Bermuda Convoy require degaussing or repairs to degaussing equipment. Minimum time to degauss 6 days in dockyard or 10 days private contract. Only 2 ships can be undertaken at same time. Is this delay acceptable in case of loaded ship (C. in C., A.W.I., 1330/17)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Low Countries.

WOLSEY (contd.)	Proceed alongside FELIX FAURE and evacuate British wounded. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 1833/22).
VENOMOUS (Boulogne)	Expect to sail with MONAS QUEEN containing 2000 troops at 1615. VENOMOUS has 212 refugees. Request immediate escort (VENOMOUS 1550/22). Sailed with MONAS QUEEN (VENOMOUS 1640/22).

Operations - Norway.

Gladiators Operating	Gladiators operating in area from now on. (R.A., Narvik, 1340/22 General).
	Mines also aviation spirit in COXWOLD urgently required owing to loss of PEMBROKE COAST (F.O., Narvik, 1449/22).
816 Sqdn.	Your 1319/21. Request 816 Sqn. Aircraft are not sent ot Harstad until further signal is made. Also request 3 IR Walrus to replace one sunk by bombs and one sent to DEVONSHIRE and one remain I.R. (F.O. Narvik, 1846/22). R.A. Narvik takes over operational control and administration of ships from 0800/24. F.O. Narvik will continue to conduct offensive operations (F.O., Narvik, 2044/22).
CALCUTTA	To sail for Narvik area 23/5 (C. in C., H.F., 1420/22).
M.L.C.'s	Asking when M.L.C.'s 16 and 17 may be expected. Urgently required. (R.A., Narvik, 1122/22).
Convoy N.P.4	F.O. Narvik's 2240/20. Convoy N.P.4 will not sail before May 26. It would however, be advantageous if ULSTER PRINCE could be sailed for Faroes. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., H.F. 1842/22)
A/S Trawlers	Reliefs. In future approx. 12 trawlers only will be available for Narvik area. (A.C.N.S. 1644/22).

War Diary

22.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Iceland & Faroes.

A/C Reports — Local inhabitants report several unidentified aircraft. Essential we should be kept informed of movements of H.M. ships and F.A.A. operating near Iceland (N.O.I.C. Reykjavik 1401/22).

Possible Enemy Attack — Report from neutral source that German Naval and Air Commands consider attacking Iceland and Faroes to obtain air bases for attack on Scotland and air domination of North Atlantic. C.2. (D.N.I. 1946/22 to O.C.R.M. Faroe Is., 1315/23).

Local Craft — Adty. 2017/20. Details of minimum requirements for a week necessary to keep isolated troops supplied and carry out essential services. (N.O.I.C., Reykjavik, 1514/22).

ULSTER PRINCE — Adty. 1842/22 (see Norway) R.A.D. to detail 2 destroyers to escort ULSTER PRINCE to Faeroes as soon as available and F.O.I.C. Greenock to sail ship accordingly. (C. in C., H.F., 2249/22).

Other Ships — My 2249. In view of F.O. Narvik's 2146/21, F.O.I.C. Greenock requested to sail in company MONARCH OF BERMUDA and ROYAL SOUTHEAST for Tromso and ULSTER PRINCE for Faroes. R.A.D. to detail escort of three destroyers, of which one is to part company with ULSTER PRINCE for Faroes. (C. in C., H.F., 2326/22).

Submarines

Special Operations — 1 trawler and SALMON operating in LSTS 4640 between 1800/23 and 0300/24. CODRINGTON, JAGUAR to patrol near LSTS 1515 between these hours then return to normal patrol. Orders. (C. in C., Nore, 1516/22).

Positions — 0600/23 (V.A.S. 1807/22, D.C. 2131/22,
0700/23 (D.C. 2130/22).

War Diary

22.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Iceland & Faroes.

A/C Reports — Local inhabitants report several unidentified aircraft. Essential we should be kept informed of movements of H.M. ships and F.A.A. operating near Iceland (N.O.I.C. Reykjavik 1401/22).

Possible Enemy Attack — Report from neutral source that German Naval and Air Commands consider attacking Iceland and Faroes to obtain air bases for attack on Scotland and air domination of North Atlantic. C.2. (D.N.I. 1946/22 to O.C.R.M. Faroe Is., 1315/23).

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Submarines

Special Operations — 1 trawler and SALMON operating in LSTS 4010 between 1800/23 and 0300/24. CODRINGTON, JAGUAR to patrol near LSTS 1515 between these hours then return to normal patrol. Orders. (C. in C., Nore, 1516/22).

Positions — 0600/23 (V.A.S. 1807/22, D.C. 2131/22,
0700/23 (D.C. 2130/22).

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines (Contd.)

French Submarines — Approved to base all French submarines at Dundee, arrangements. (D.O.D.(H) 2059/22, V.A.(S) 2252/22).

Capture — Have captured Danish 20 ton fishing boat, ¼ full of fish, apparently property of skipper. Appears genuine (TRITON 2341/22). If you can accommodate crew sink her, otherwise let her go. (R.A.(S) 0617/23).

Dutch Submarines — 09, 010 unsuitable for patrol in North Sea. To be employed on A/S training. 013 will be ready for patrol in few days; Western Approaches proposed for first patrol (V.A.(S) 1519/22).

CASABLANCA — Patrol report 14-16 May (V.A.(S) 1514/22).

ACHILLE — Patrol report 14-20 May. Bombed by own aircraft 0833/20 in 57:0 N., 0:8 E. (V.A.(S) 1516/22).

Operations - Aircraft-Carriers

Admiralty Control — As a temporary measure whilst the future requirements of carriers are under review and in order that full use may be made of disembarked squadrons for co-operation with R.A.F. Coastal Command during the present emergency, movements of carriers and F.A.A. squadrons (other than those at Hatston) will be directed by Admiralty. C. in C., Home Fleet, V.A.A. will be kept fully informed. (1st Sea Lord, 1534/22).

War Diary

22.5.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity

Stavanger — Aerodrome bombed at 0015/22 by coastal Command aircraft and large fires started. (Donibristle 0410/22)

Dutch Coast Patrol — British aircraft operating off Dutch coast until 2200/22 with object of bombing submarines sighted on surface (V.A.S. 1640/22)

M.T.B's to be Attacked — Make arrangements with C. in C., Nore so that British aircraft attacks any M.T.B's sighted (H.Q.C.C. 2210/22 to 16 group)

8 Minesweepers — Attacked 0915 55.45'6.2'E no hits. (Donibristle 1330/22, 1305/22, 1220/22) see Enemy Intelligence.

Reconnaissances to be made — (1) Enemy aerodrome in preparation near Domoen 60.38'N 6.26'E and probably near railway Bergen-Oslo at Voss.

(2) Enemy aircraft in preparation at Borms ½ mile N. of Lura 58.52'N 5.45'E.

(3) KONIGSBERG reported being repaired alongside quay at Rosenberg to N.W. of Stavanger (H.Q.C.C. 1300/22)

Air Routes — K 349 May 22 Service and civil air routes between Shoreham and Le Bourjet will be moved to the line Shoreham Ouistreham-Le Bourjet with effect from 0300/22 (Air Min., 1546/22)

ILLUSTRIOUS aircraft carrier — To proceed to Clyde and then to Devonport before sailing Dakar (Admty, 1700/22)

Norway Reconnaissance — ~~At first opportunity, [illegible] following [illegible] Stavanger [illegible]~~ Re KONIGSBERG, above if not at Rosenberg, search Duo. (H.Q.C.C. 1300/22)

Enemy Air Activity

Ship being attacked by aircraft 190° from Folkestone (Nore W/T 0659/22)

Recd. 0555 G.M.T. from V.C.B.U. another ship being attacked by aircraft 190° from Folkestone (N. Foreland Radio 0700/22)

War Diary

22.5.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

MAID OF KENT
BRIGHTON
HUBBARTSNE

Army hospital carrier, bombed and burning (?21/5) BRIGHTON still mined in. HUBBATSTE holed. S.T.O. left aforesaid. Request instructions (N.C.S.O. Dieppe 0958/22)

VENOMOUS

Help, Boulogne harbour (VENOMOUS 1636/22) (1841/22) (She was attacked during bombing of Boulogne by a large number of enemy aircraft)

GRAFTON

Bombed C.P.D.H. 1555 (GRAFTON 1902/22, 1905/22) No hits (GRAFTON 1906/22)

M.T.B. 25

Attacked by aircraft off Dubkirk. (M.T.B. 25 T.O.R. 2203/22)

BAWTRY

British, 835 tons, bombed and sunk off Dunkirk. (D.S.)

SPARTA

British, 708 tons, engaged in rescue work at Boulogne, bombed and hit. 7 lost, 4 survivors landed Dover. (D.S)

SS BELGRAVIAN

Bombed repeatedly 0140 G.M.T. Life boat gone. Anchored 6 miles 245°Dungeness (N. Foreland Radio 0243/22) Some damage done (I.C. 0459/40)

H.M.S. SANDOWN

Bombed 1 mile 220° Goodwin L.V. (SANDOWN 0516/22) 4 bombs dropped, only one exploded (I.C. 0459/40)

TLEMCEN

French. Bombed, no position given off Gravelines (TLEMCEN, 1308/22) was afterwards in collision with British BEDFORD, which was sunk.

Ship off Grisnez destroyed by fire (WHITSHED 0635/22)

OPHELIE

French tanker, was bombed and sunk off Boulogne night 20/5. (I.C. 0459/40)

HILDA

Finnish (1144 tons) bombed at Dunkirk, hit in bow, unable to anchor (I.C. 0459/40)

[illegible]

All enemy vessels and also yesterday which left here July 19 and have not yet returned. The Dutch Lender has arrived here with cargo of oil for Dundee. (Vice-Consul, Ijmuide, 1401/40)

War Diary

22.5.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Beachy Head — Explosion south of Beachy Head at 1605/21 (I.C. 0458/40)

Calais — 4 mines exploded today in approach channel t (V.A. Dover, 2121/22)

E.B. 7. — 20th D.F. leaves Immingham 0800/23 to carry out (P.A. (S) 2041/22, D. 20 1705/22) Laying position etc., (D.D.O.D.(H) 1234/22)

Boulogne — 2 magnetic mines reported off Digne Carnot breakwater Request 2 warning to ships not touse anchorage inside breakwater. (V.A. Dover 2235/22, VENOMOUS 1440/22)

Cherbourg — Danger area due to mines (Adty. Cherbourg 1405/22)

Havre — A pair of trawlers sent to sweep off Havre have not been heard of since. Another pair is being sent from Portsmouth(M.S.M)

Shipping

T.C. 4. — Arrived Liverpool 0600/12 (D.C. 0738/22)

Ocean Convoys — Positions (D.C., 1840/22)

N.E.P. ships — Owing to heavy demands for troops and reduction of number of neutral ships military guards for N.E.P. ships have been reduced but not removed from ports mentioned (D of L.D. 1611/22 to F.O. Humber re his 1750/13)

Miscellaneous

Refugees — Should Weymouth fill to capacity small craft may disembark refugees at Brownsea Island, Poole. Small craft bringing refugees to Western ports should be sent to Milford Haven. (Adty to all C. in C.s 0410/22)

Suspicious Swedish Trawlers — 2 destroers to investigate group of 2 or 3 trawlers flying Swedish colours reported fishing in 58° 28'N 1° 6'W. 1405/21. Regarded as suspicious, may be German or Danish (C. in C., H.F. 0500/22 to R.A. (D))

Russian Ships — All russian warships and also passenger ships left here May 19 and have not yet returned. The Russian tanker has arrived here with cargo of oil for Russia. (Vice-Consul, Liepaja, 1245/22)

War Diary

22.5.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

ADMIRAL SCHEER

It is now confirmed that the pocket battleship in dock at Wilhelmshaven. 19/5 was the ADMIRAL SCHEER. (I.C. 0459/40)

4 M.T.B's

4 German M.T.B's were in 52° 50'N 3° 40'E at 1815. Course 190° speed 30 knots. (V.A. Dover 2204/22 to Capt. D 19, WINDSOR, VENETIA)

Armed Trawlers

Eight armed trawlers reported by A/craft at 0443 in position 56° 27'N 5° 26'E; also two balloons at 3000 feet in position 56° 35'N 5° 26'E; (Denibristle 0745/22) Attacked. See Air.

M.T.B's

Reliably reported that German M.T.B's entering their bases hoist a special flag at masthead. Report nature of flag if sighted. (D.D.I.C. 1223/22)

U-Boats

A large number may be operating in Straits of Dover. Exercise extreme Vigilance. (V.A. Dover to destroyers 1040/22)

There are indications that U boats are operating or about to operate in North Sea south of 53° N. This may be prelude to operations by enemy surface forces in this area. (V.A. (S) 1722/22 to submarines on patrol)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

EFFORD — Sunk in collision with TELEMACHUS 2 miles off Dover entrance, all crew safe (N Forelsnd radiod intercept 1746,1756 Recd. 1855) V.A. Dover 2155/22)

EFFINGHAM — SOBIESKY has crew (TARTAR 2137/22 to F.O. Greenock)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA has been diverted to Gibraltar; bunker and water her sufficient to reach Halifax and despatch as soon as ready.

DUCHESS OF ATHOL has been diverted to Halifax direct due about 27/5 (D. of S.T. 0031/22)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

DORSETSHIRE — To be sailed for Devonport with moderate despatch. Will be required to escort troop convoy leaving U.K. about June 8. (D.O.D. (F) 0110/22, to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Ships — Positions, 1200/22, Convoys and Patrols. (D.C., 0134/22)

Italian Trawlers — N.C.S.O. Las Palmas 1735/15 (4 Italian Trawlers to embark depots stores and return to Italy) 4 Italian trawlers have passed eastward (C.O. (I) Gib. 1248/22)

South Atlantic

Durban — A report dated 13 May indicates possible presence of enemy minefield S of Durban within five miles of coast (I.C. 0453/40)

Suspected Raider — Following from N.C.S.O., St. Vincent, Following message in plain language intercepted by British CITY OF EDINBURGH 0900/20. From British ships BRITISH ARDOUR to British ship GBXZ (?) 31.20'N., 29.50'W. Unknown merchant cruiser chasing. Nothing further heard. T.O.O., 1036/22/5. (W. in C., S.A., 1426/22)
My 1426/22. French at Dakar report that French A.M.C. was in position 31.50' N., 30.20' W., at 0900/20/5. (C. in C., S.A. 0635/23)

Mediterranean

MIRAGLIA — Re Adty. 2342/21 delaying her in transit through Gibraltar 1331/22, 1816/22)

Sailed from Tripoli p.m. 21st. Complement said to be thirty planes. (Adty. to C. in C., Med. 0345/22)

Contraband Control — During the last eight weeks the average detention of Italian tankers in Contraband Control ports for for cargo verification has been only 7½ hours.

British Shipping — So far as is now known there are only three British ships in Italian ports. BALTARA 3292 tons at Palermo, ALVENA 1777 tons and CERVANTES 1810 tons at Leghorn. The British liners OXFORD 20043 tons and OTRANTO 20026 tons left Port Said on 19th May for Toulon, both under Government charter.

War Diary

22. 5. 1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean Contd.

Rumour — Now about all circles Bucharest that France has asked for armistice and Gamelin committed suicide doing grave harm. B.B.C. should at once contradict. (M.A. Bucharest 2245/22)

Diversion of Shipping — Your 1219/21. General intention is to keep central portion of Mediterranean as clear of British and Norwegian shipping as possible for present. Full diversion now in force except for ships carrying Govt. stores, and will be continued until situation improves. Inconsistences due to different views held by French and ourselves. Your action regarding shipping through Aegean approved. (A.C.N.S. 0014/22 to C. in C., Med.)

"D" Cruisers — Admiralty, 0911/21. DELHI and DRAGON will be made available. DRAGON can be sailed now. DELHI completes refit approx. June 8 If this delay cannot be accepted one of C class cruisers will be sent at once. (C. in C., Med., 1117/22

Italian Tankers — On 21/5 Rome made cypher message to 15 Italian tankers in Atlantic, Mediterranean and Indian Oceans (D.N.I. 1948/22 to C. in C., Med.)

Italian Ships — Are still sailing from the Mediterranean for British ports. (I.C. 0459/40)

East Indies

Italian Preparations — Report by daughter of British Consul, Benghazi: (C.O. (I) Malta 1905/20)

Degaussing — Admty. 1308/11. Re degaussing local coasting vessels. (C. in C., E.I., 09014/22)

Sabotage — Precautions against, at Abadan. (S.N.O., Persian Gulf, 13532/22)

Contraband — Admty. 1532/8, traffic of contraband by Arabs to Germany.

Italian Ships — Unloading in Shatt-el-Arab. My 1015/17 rumour of evidence of attempted sabotage is available and such precautions as can be imposed under present conditions are in operation. Details (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1000/22)

War Diary

22.5.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies, Contd.

French Troops

Almost continuously some 5000 French troops or Military labour passing through Station from Saigon or Madagascar. Majority are bound for Marseilles and still have orders to proceed via Suez. French C. in C., Far East has informed French Admiralty but to save time request you will take the matter up with them direct with a view to transports being diverted via Cape as soon as possible. (C. in C., E.I. 1113/22)

China

Shipping

From June 12, N.Y.K. westbound ships are ordered to reserve one hold for bunker coal, probably a precaution to ensure ships can proceed via Cape without bunkering. Their agents in Rome are to be advised by all ports of arrivals and departures of Levant and European service. (C. in C.'s office Hong Kong, 02392/22)

America & West Indies

Suspicious Ship

20/5 12 (?40) suspicious vessel similar ALTMARK 6.27'N 28.36'W steering N.W. (SILVER WILLOW 1911/22)

Italian Preparations

Reported from San Francisco 21/5 that Italian Lines have instructed their agents to load their ships with maximum quantitties for Italian consumption; That the number of American loading ports is to be restricted, and ships are to proceed homewards at full speed. (Ottawa) (I.C. 0459/40)

War Diary

22.5.1940.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

RHAKOTIS — Has been sighted at 23° S 70° 30'W sailing in a S.E'ly direction. (I.C. 0458/40)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked

DUNSTER GRANGE — British, 9404 tons, shelled by enemy submarine at 2157/22, 49.20' N., 8.40'W. Sunderland flying boat was sent (C. in C., W.A., 2313/22, 2349/22, Scapa W/T 2157/20 D.C., 2350/22) V.A. Dover says 49.30'N 9.0'W at 2332 (V.A. Dover 0125/23)

Submarines Reported

0025. — By fishing boat, 10 miles E.S.E. Barra Head, course north. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0850/22) Periscope and conning tower reported by motor drifter CILICIA, ¾-mile distant (C. in C., Rosyth, 0939/22)

1030. — By H.M.S. DEPTFORD, 49.11'N., 5' W., about 100m. W from Brest.

1330. — Periscope reported by French escort vessel COMMANDANT RIVIERE, 36.18' N., 08.30'"., about 48 m. S.S.E. from Cape St. Vincent in Portugal. (F.O.C.N.A. 1636/22)

2055. — Periscope reported by French patrol boat CHEVREUIL, 50o15'N., 01.55'W., about 26M. E.S.E. from Portland. (Portsmouth W/T T.O.R. 2229)

2157. — 49.20' N., 08.40'W., about 120m. S.W. from Land's End. Attacked British DUNSTER GRANGE.

0020. — 53.20'N 04.40'E 17 miles N.W. from Texel. Reported by aircraft.

Estimated Dispositions — U-boats probably operating south of latitude of Cromer. 1 probably in Minches, north bound. 2 or 3 off S.W. Ireland. (D.D.I.C.., 1256/22)

The SARASTONE, which reported a periscope about 100 miles W of the Durlings 1909/19 now states on arrival at Gibraltar that the submarine broke surface and remained on the surface a short time. (I.C. 0459/40)

Submarines Attacked.

1030 — By DEPTFORD 48.11'N 8.15'W. (WHITEHALL 1248/22)

War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Precautions Against landings

Two destroyers are proceeding to patrol off Dingle Bay (S.W. Ireland) to prevent any attempted landings from enemy submarines or small craft.

Boulogne

After heavy fighting throughout May 23rd. at Boulogne between German tanks and a motorised regiment and the two battalions of Guards and 200 R.M's with 200 Naval Ratings sent there, all of whom were subjected to heavy aircraft attack, it was decided at 2000 to evacuate the troops, and nine destroyers embarked all but 200 though all ships sustained casualties. It is believed that the R.N. and R.M. parties succeeded in carrying out most of the demolitions ordered.

Calais

The port was worked last night. A Naval demolition party was landed this A.M. and two battalions with M.T. in four ships arrived later.

Dunkirk

A naval demolition party was landed a.m. 23rd.

Severe air attacks were made on other Northern French ports; a trawler and a hospital ship being sunk alongside at Dieppe and a trawler outside, partly blocking the channel: the port is still closed on account of mines. The central station, Grande Vitesse shed, and Vitesse Magazine Generale were burnt out by incendiary bombs at Havre. Magnetic mines have been dropped at all these ports.

Low Countries

During the night 23/24 May a continuous air patrol was maintained on the Belgian and Dutch coasts to give warning of any enemy M.T.B.'s trying to attack shipping.

Netherlands Naval Activities during attack on Low Countries

T.B.Z.5 and T.M.B. 51 prevented further German troops from corssing the river at Rotterdam, Gunboats FRISO, BRINIO, GRUNO, and NAASAU repelled German attacks across the Zuyder Zee, and submarines O.23 and O.24 proceeded through the mined New Waterway at Rotterdam and reached England.

War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Narvik

R.A. Narvik reports that, owing to casualties, only seven A/S trawlers remain effective. He needs 16 for efficient patrols.

Both Bjervik and Lilleborg piers were bombed last night whilst troops and stores were being transferred. Regular air patrols have been asked for.

Italian Situation

Chairman of Thos. Cook & Son reports that Italian Lines have sudden orders that Lloyd Triestino sailings (i.e. to Far East) have been suspended, Italian Lines (to North and South America) have been postponed, but Adriatic lines (Medit. traffic) are still running. He was told Press was not to be informed; but Lloyds have no confirmation of this.

There were ten Italian ships in U.K. ports on 23rd and ten more due within 48 hours.

War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Immobilising of ports — My 2250/20. Report when schemes are ready to be put into operation at ports in your command (1st S.L. 1244/23 to Rosyth, Nore, Portsmouth, Dover).

Lerwick — At present in Lerwick 12 Norwegian fishing vessels with total crew of about 50 and 10 Norwegian soldiers. Difficult to vouch for bona fides, some may be a potential danger. Request immediate action to clear up the situation with Norwegian authorities, also decision about disposal of Norwegian fishing vessels, which are causing considerable congestion in harbour. (F.O.C.O.S., 1137/23).

Aerodrome Guards — Requesting permanent military guards for Lossiemouth and Kinloss aerodromes whether or not R.A.F. squadrons are utilising (Air. Min., to H.Q., Home Forces, 1830/23).

Refugee ships — Large number of ships with refugees passing through defences at Portsmouth bound to Southampton. Consider essential provide expert personnel to assist customs to rummage all these ships. (C. in C., Portsmouth to Adty. 1242/23).

L.D.V. — Local Defence Volunteers to be formed in Adty. Civil Establishments to augment existing Police, Naval, and Military Guard. Request communicate with appropriate Army Commands as to forming these Volunteers. (Adty. to A.C.O.S. 2014/23).

War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

Fleet fog-bound — Fleet at Scapa is fog-bound. (C. in C., H.F. 2335/23).

Submarines — Positions 0600/24 (V.A.(S) 2129/23).

Patrol P. — C. in C., Nore's 1008 JAVELIN and JACKAL detailed (to replace CODRINGTON and JAGUAR on Patrol P during operation Lamp). What time should they R.V. with you? (N.O.I.C., Harwich, 1121/23 to Capt. (D)1).

Operation Dynamo

Your 1658/20, Yarmouth 1014/22 (whether crews available for Dutch motor boats). Crews are being sent (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1606/23).

Operation Lyster (see also Operation XD, EF & G) Weigh and proceed 0900/23. (F.O.D.E. 1910/23 to Forces D and E).

Naval forces will sail at 0830/24 for operations D.F. and E.F.. Expect to arrive 0330/25 (D.O.D.(H) /23).

Carry out operation E.F. Time of arrival for Force E to be 0330/25. Sail force E and mine-sweepers accordingly. Demolition parties and stores are to be disembarked before sailing (V.C.N.S. 1343/23). My 1343/23. Blocking is to be carried out at both ports immediately on arrival (D.O.D.(H) /23) ships to be commissioned 23/5, 24/5, 25/5, 27/5, 11 in all. (Hd. of M. 2033/23).

Cancel my 0930/16. Following forces formed:

Force D.	Force E.
BORODINO	VEGA
ATLANTIC GUIDE	FLORENTINO
CAROLINE MOLLER	TRANSEAS
SUNLIGHT	LORD GREY
DAROGAH	CLYTHNESS
1 M.T.B.	2 M.T.B.'s
1st A/S S.F.	2nd A/S S.F.
	6th M/S Fl.

S.O. Force E in VEGA is S.O. of both forces (D.T.D.H. 1559/23).

O.

War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation XD, EF & G.

D.D.O.D. 0015/23 see 22/5.

My 1855/22. Party G is to be ready to embark at Dover at 0900/23 (D.D.O.D.(H) 0428/23).

For the present demolitions at the ports should not be carried out except by order of the Adty. (V.C.N.S. 1016/23 to VIMY, WILD SWAN, VENOMOUS).

Am landing demolition party now (VIMY 1140/23).

Operation XD, Party J have assembled, it will arrive pm/23. To be at 4 hours'notice. Embarkation will take place at Dover where stores are being sent (D.O.D.(H) 1227/23).

Your 1155 (North Sector demolition suggested) No. (N.O.I.C. Dover 1238/23 to VIMY).

Request more assistance (WILD SWAN 2114/23).

Have landed evacuation being bombarded by artillery (WILD SWAN 2055/23).

Your 2010/23. Most of them have been done I think (WHITSHED 2050/23).

Military component of Party J to sail for Havre on arrival at Dover (D.O.D.(H) 2309/23).

Boulogne (Force Buttercup)

Boulogne shelled

D.S.T.D. Boulogne reports position at port being shelled no fighting troops here. Have ordered troops to march to Wimereux ~~where~~ where H.Q. are. Send yacht back to Dover to pick up anything on the way. (V.A.Dover, 0035/23).

Force for Boulogne

Approx. 380 Officers and men returned to Dover from Boulogne with object of restoring control of docks area request 100 R.M., 100 seamen be sent to Dover from Chatham forthwith. Intend to sail them to Boulogne on arrival (V.A.Dover, 0314/23)

HOME COMMANDS

Boulogne (Force Buttercup) Contd.

100 R.M. & 100 seamen for Boulogne

Your 0314/23 (Sailing of 100 R.M. and 100 seamen to Boulogne) approved. C. in C., Nore to arrange. Parties should sail with XDG at 0900/23 (D.D.O.D.(H) 0456/23 to V.A., Dover).

Major Holford R.M. C.O. of party mentioned in V.A. Dover's 0314/23 report to V.A. Dover for orders (D.D.O.D.(H) 0645/23).

Situation at Boulogne

VERITY at Boulogne quiet at 0100. Irish Guards heavily attacked at 2300 by tanks followed by infantry. Railway damaged by bombs and shell fire. (VERITY 0130/23, 0325/23).
Enemy estimated 1 tank battalion and regiment infantry attacking North Sector "Buttercup" has been driven in. Cannot hold on much longer. Suggest demolition blown forthwith (VIMY 1155/23).
Brigadier Guards Bde. considers he can hold out until evening. Demolition being prepared. WHITSHED going with Boulogne and has been informed demolition is not to be done (V.A. Dover, 1415/23).

Stay and fight it out

Instruct Buttercup from W.O: No armed men are to be embarked at Boulogne. They are to stay and fight it out. (D.C. 1422/23).

Do not hesitate to open fire on any enemy objective (V.A. Dover, 1530/23 to KEITH, WHITSHED, VIMY).

Enemy occupied Boulogne excepting bridge head. No anti-tank guns now in action. Estimate of enemy force as 1155/23. Estimated casualties Buttercup 50% (Buttercup 1530/23).

Join D.19 off Boulogne with all despatch (V.A. Dover, 1538/23 to VENETIA, VENOMOUS).
Expect to arrive 1735. (VENOMOUS, 1625/23).

Adty.1422. Men of no military value may be embarked (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1616/23 to Capt. D 19, D.C. 1630/23 to D.19, WHITSHED, WO to Buttercup).

Proceed to Dover with all despatch if you can reach there before dark. (C. in C., Nore, 1910/23 to WESSEX).

Have had to withdraw heavy machine gunnery from North side of harbour, many casualties D.9 gone (D.19, 1905/23).

No allowing destroyers in Boulogne until heavy fighter force appears (WHITSHED 1855/23).

Fighters.....

HOME COMMANDS

Boulogne (Force Buttercup) Contd.

Stay and fight it out (Contd.)

Fighters must be sent (WHITSHED 1833/23) (see also Air).

Fighter Command report own aircraft repeatedly fired on by destroyers off Calais and Boulogne (V.A. Dover 1817/23 to Dover destroyers). Expect to arrive 1845 Boulogne. (VIMIERA, 1744/23).

Am being attacked by enemy aircraft in Boulogne Harbour. (VENOMOUS, 1825/23).

Enemy holds north bank of whole town. Intense bombing. If Buttercup is to be rescued (message corrupt) Capt. D dead (WHITSHED 1920/23).

Going in (WHITSHED, 1920/23). Welsh Guards still in wood on north side of harbour. (WHITSHED, 1935/23).

Several killed and wounded in all destroyers (WHITSHED 1922/23) Am I to evacuate (WHITSHED, 1938/23 to F.O. Dover).

Am carrying out evacuation of Welsh Guards. Anticipate further bombing shortly (WHITSHED 1955/23). Buttercup is to withdraw (Dover W/T 2002/23 to WHITSHED). Have been promised continuous fighter protection by Fighter Command (V.A. Dover, 2013/23 to WHITSHED).
WHITSHED and VIMIERA sailed. (WHITSHED, 2014/23).
* Vital to maintain fighter escort (WHITSHED 2027/23). Request more assistance (WILD SWAN, 2114/23 to Dover). S.O. destroyers take charge and use discretion as to appropriate action. Report. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 2123/23 to WILD SWAN, VENETIA, WINDSOR, VENOMOUS).

Join WILD SWAN with all despatch at Boulogne if oil fuel permits. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 2125/23 to WESSEX).

Free to evacuate

You have complete freedom of action to act as you think fit and to withdraw if opposition too strong. Darkness may help you (N.O.I.C. Dover, 2145/23 to WILD SWAN, WINDSOR, WESSEX, VENETIA, VENOMOUS).

* Fighter escort gone, enemy aircraft over town. (WHITSHED, 2025/23).

HOME COMMANDS

Boulogne(Force Buttercup) Contd.

Free to evacuate (contd.)

Harbour is under field gun fire from heights to northward, destroyers should not enter without covering fire from seaward. Considerable number military left. Regret consider further evacuation impracticable. (WILD SWAN 2234/23 to N.O.I.C. Dover).

Operations

Coast of France.

GREY MIST is returning from Boulogne with 250 troops on board. It is thought that German mechanised troops have entered Boulogne (V.A., Dover, 0007/23).

Calais

Military authorities state demands for Naval assistance were originated by enemy agent. No enemy tanks in immediate vicinity of Calais. Am proceeding with VENETIA to patrol off Sangatte Road to attack any tanks seen proceeding towards Calais at daylight. (WINDSOR to V.A. Dover, 0030/23, V.A. Dover, 0245/23 to Adty.).

Dunkirk

Admiral Nord has asked for dawn reconnaissance of country round Dunkirk today and immediate action by Bomber Command against any enemy troops sighted. If Dunkirk is to be held he considers this action vital necessity. I concur. (V.A. Dover, 0136/23, 0214/23).

Calais Boulogne

French appear to be retiring on Calais no strong resistance in Boulogne, except isolated units. Situation appears critical. (V.A. Dover, 0259/23).

Telephones

In view of probability that telephone lines to U.K. from Belgium and Northern France are tapped, you should be particularly discreet in any telephone conversations you may hold regarding Naval operations. (1st S.L. to N.A., Belgium, 0317/23).

HOME COMMANDS

Coast of France (Contd.)

VERITY reports following from General Brownrigg. After disembarking at Dover surplus personnel may I return in destroyer and command these ports from her. All communications except from destroyers cut. Ends. (V.A. Dover, 0410/23).

2 Battalions & A-T Batty. for Calais — W.O. to Gen. Brownrigg. V.C.I.G.S. has decided that the 2 battalions and anti-tank battery will sail to Calais as ordered (D.C. 1056/23 to V.A. Dover).

Dieppe Situation — Channel blocked by magnetic mines, sweeping in progress. Uncertain date port will be open. Following sunk by bombs. One hospital ship and one trawler alongside. One trawler outside probably blocking channel. Small craft in harbour causing little obstruction. S.T.O's staff have left for Havre. French would much like them to return. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1158/23).

Shipping — Until further orders no ships are to proceed to French ports other than those to westward of Havre. Ships bound for Havre, Rouen, or French ports northward of Havre are to be sailed for St. Helens where they will receive instructions as to new destinations. (D.T.D., 1956/23).

Evacuation figures — Figures of evacuations from French ports by destroyers, transports and auxiliary vessels to 1800/22. British Military and R.A.F. non-combatants 250 officers, 2800 O.R. to Dover. About 5000 refugees of all nationalities to Dover and Folkestone (V.A. Dover, 1312/23).

Conditions at Le Havre — S.S. BELGRAVIAN very slight damage from bombing. Several magnetic mines in channel and outer roadsted. Wharves and quays in full working order but quays in outer port congested with ships waiting to sail and vessels moved from Upper Harbour. Port closed except for degaussed vessels in emergency. Mines being cleared up but believed fresh mines laid early am/23. Rail facilities normal. Military Commander states some troops evacuated but are being brought back as required. S.S. SIREHEI is loaded 8000-10000 tons but unable to sail owing to state of port. Few refugees left, no more being sent. Garrison Comdr. and D.S.T.O. consider.....

War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - France

Conditions at Le Havre (Contd.) consider that if evacuation ever contemplated plans ~~places~~ should be made at once. Might be 8000 - 10000 troops to be evacuated by sea. Appears probable that unless defence against laying mines in channel can be strengthened to cope with situation the port will be permanently rendered useless. D.S.T.O. Havre 1300/23 (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1540/23).

Calais After M.T. ships berth VIMIERA join WINDSOR off Calais. Object of both ships is to destroy by gunfire any enemy units attempting to advance on Calais by road from west. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 1644/23).

No more refugees to embark No more refugees apart from British to be embarked for U.K. until further notice (D of S.T. 1717/23 to D.S.T.O. Brest, Cherbourg, Dieppe, St. Marlo, Calais, Caen, Fecamp, Rouen). Asking for steamer to take 1000 British refugees to be sent to Leverdon (Bordeaux 2100/23).

Situation at Cherbourg 1730/23. No air raids today. All wharves and quays intact. Port open. Rail facilities intact. Some congestion in the port due to troops plus large numbers of refugees (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 2151/23).

Battery of 12 12 pdrs. to be formed for Calais Battery of 12 12 pdr. guns to be formed followed by a second battery of 12 guns forthwith manned by Naval and R.M. personnel at Portsmouth for anti-tank defence of Calais from landward. Operation is to take highest priority (V.C.N.S. 2253/23).

Operation Quixote

To be carried out as soon as possible after Quentin. (a) 2 trawlers, escorted, to cut Bacton - Borkum No 2 and Lowestoft - Borkum in about 2:30 E. (b) remaining trawlers to cut all 6 cables involved in Quixote about 5 miles from shore (D.S.D. 1516/23).

See also Mining (C. in C., Nore, 2010/23).

HOME COMMANDS

Cross-Channel Cable

ARIEL to lay new Cross-Channel cable from Dartmouth to Francevia Jersey, and FARADAY to carry spare cable for ARIEL. Ships to sail in O.A. Convoy leaving Southend 26 or 27 May for Dartmouth and Plymouth respectively. Request escort for ARIEL during the operation. (D.D.O.D. (H), to C. in C., W.A. 1826/23).

Operation Quidnunc

On completion of present cable-cutting operations, following trawlers to carry out Operation Quidnunc under your orders - CAPE MELVILLE, GRAMPIAN, PELTON, MILFORD QUEEN, MILFORD PRINCESS, JAMES LAY. All cables running from Newbiggin to Scandinavia, 6 in number, to be cut, preferably at distance of about 70 miles from Newbiggin. As soon as she can be spared, cable ship MONARCH is to cut and seal Peterhead-Egersund cable, preferably about 60 miles from Peterhead. Object of cutting is to prevent use by enemy either for leader purposes or for communication in event of landing. For former reason cutting should be well out from coast but distances quoted are subject to your discretion. (D.S.D., 1804/23 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Operations - Norway.

Both Bjerkvik and Lilleberg pier were bombed last night whilst stores and troops were being transferred. French military require stores to be transferred every other night. Request air patrols from 0001 to 0300 every other night commencing 25/5 (FAME 1045/23).

Shortage of A/S trawlers

Your 1644/22. Due to casualties 7 A/S trawlers remain effective in Narvik area of which 5 are available for patrol. 8 craft are necessary for effective A/S patrol which necessitates a force of 16. A/S trawlers are not suitable for local conditions, smoke from coal burning craft invites air attack and they are susceptible to sinking by near misses. (R.A. Narvik, 1401/23).

Northern entrance to Harstad is closed to navigation (R.A. Narvik, 1820/23).

War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Norway

Shortage of A/S trawlers (Contd.)

In view of present situation it is essential to keep as many destroyers as possible in home waters. Convoy arrangements (D.O.D.(H) 1907 to F.O. Narvik).

North Norway

Your 1800/21. Investigation shows no evidence of German troops or ships proceeding North Russia. (D.N.I. 0316/23 to F.O. Narvik).

Manning of Steamer

Your 2025/19. No Oerlikon guns are available. No 6 pdr. or 3 pdr. guns can be spared for this service. (A.H.Q. 1729/23 to R.A. Narvik).

Submarines

In view of possibility of U-boats operating in Southern part of North Sea I have arranged with V.A.(S) that our ships shall keep North of a line joining Smith's Knoll and Hook of Holland and ships of Nore Command South of this line. V.A.S. has been told that eastward of 2:50 E. there will normally be no Naval patrols within 15 miles of this line (C. in C., Nore 1250/23).

Air.

British Air Activity

In addition to usual patrols aircraft undertake continuous moonlight reconnaissance nightly during present moon from Calais to Hook of Holland to warn of possible attack by enemy M.T.B.'s on shipping in Belgian or North French ports (H.Q.C.C. to Adty. 1315/23).

ILLUSTRIOUS Sqdns.

My 2020/17. Nos. 815 and 819 Sqdns. will be required to embark in ILLUSTRIOUS shortly. Should be released from co-operation duties with Coastal Command forthwith and sent to R.N.A.S., Ford. (D.N.A.D., 1325/23).

War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

There was a decrease in German aircraft operations on 22/5 in comparison with previous 4 days, due to less favourable weather conditions. Operations included attacks on shipping between South East Coast and Belgium, and probable mine-laying off Holland.

[redacted]

Evidence is accumulating that German Air Force is consolidating in Holland and in occupied parts of Belgium and North East France.

Established that German troops conveyed by gliders participated in capture of Fort Ebemmael in Belgium. Their success may encourage Germans to exploit these tactics.

German Air Force casualties lost and severely damaged since 10.5.40 are 1417. This does not include reports from H.Q., B.A.F.F., which have not been received for four days.

VENOMOUS — Being attacked in Boulogne harbour (VENOMOUS, 1825/23).

WHITSHED — Bombed (WHITSHED 1909/23). Fighter escort gone enemy aircraft over town. (WHITSHED 2025/23) Bring bombed by 60 bombers. Capt. D wounded (WHITSHED 1850/23) Aircraft bombing (WHITSHED 1909/23).

VENETIA — Bombed at Boulogne (VENETIA 2040/23).

CORMARSH — Bombed 53:25 N., 1:0 E. (CORMARSH 2045/23). Position Dudgeon L.V. bombed 2020 (CORMARSH TOR 2133/23).

Dudgeon L.V. — Bombed 2030 (Scapa W/T TOR 2122/23).

CAPE PASSARD — (A/S Tr.) sunk by bombs 21/5 at Narvik.
MELBOURNE — (A/S Tr.) sunk 22/5 (R.A. Narvik, 1105/23).

Enemy's Aircraft shot down — During the day destroyers shot down 2 enemy aircraft at Boulogne and one at Calais (I.C. 0460/40).

War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation P.D. 4th M/S F. to carry out 24/5 (C, in C., Nore, 1150/23).

Aircraft mining Enemy dropping parachute mines in 51:5 N., 1:44 E. (VERITY 2236/23).

M. Mining by U-boats There are indications that German Submarines are about to operate in the Southern portion of the North Sea and Magnetic Minelaying may be expected.

2. The proposed clearance of the Would Channel is postponed and every effort is to be made to maintain existing channels.

3. In particular the following are considered likely areas for magnetic minelaying, Humber, Yarmouth, Harwich, Nore. Details. (D.M.S. 1641/23).

In view of importance of your 1641 I propose to give it priority and to deal with your 1516 (Operation Quixote) as soon as practicable. Request with several of 6 trawlers ordered by your 1804 may not be pressed until situation is much clearer (C. in C., Nore, 2010/23).

Enemy Intelligence

Germans using Norwegian Flag Norwegian C. in C., reports that Norwegian warships captured by Germans and now being operated by them have at times been observed flying Norwegian colours. Request this may be promulgated (C. in C., H.F. 2301/23).

T.B's 2 enemy T.B.'s are reported 7miles N. of Dunkirk. Not very reliable. (F.O. Dover, 0130/23, 0125/23).

Shipping

French Convoy and Patrol positions at 1200/23 (Adty to C. in C., W.A. 0145/23).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Shipping not to proceed to North French ports

Until further orders no ships are to proceed to French ports other than those to W. of Havre. Ships bound for Havre, Rouen or French ports N. of Havre are to be sailed for St. Helens for instructions (D.T.D. 1956/23)

Miscellaneous

Scapa Defence

A.C.O.S. 1625/22 (Blocking of Eastern Entrances of Scapa Flow). As Scapa is now within easy reach of enemy M.T.B.'s working from S.W. Norway request this be done immediately (C. in C., H.F. 1335/23).

S.S. BALTICA

Swedish (1966 tons) with German prize crew on board reported sunk by British 14/5, just after leaving Stavanger, according to Swedish Radio; Swedish crews reached Sweden (Reuter).

Weather

0500	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Between N.E. & S.E. Light.	Moderate to poor extensive fog patches.	Similar.
Channel	S.E. light to moderate.	Poor to moderate.	Temporary improvement.
Western Approaches	E. to S.W. moderate.	Moderate to good.	Fresh S. wind Fog Patches, poor visibility.
Horns Reef	Moderate E.	Good.	Similar.
W. Coast Norway	Easterly moderate.	Good.	Similar.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Positions — Convoys and British ships. (Adty. to B.N.L.O. Marceau 1902/23).

French Positions — At 1200/23 (Adty to C. in C., W.A. 0145/23).

A.M.C. to sail to Azores — Your 1411/21 Request instructions (F.O.I.C. Gib. 0710/23).

Spanish trawlers cutting cables — Cables recently reported cut 100 miles N. of Lisbon, 50 miles S. of Lisbon, 170 miles W. of Gib. Spanish trawlers suspected. Suggest you ask Portuguese to renew Naval patrol off Cascaes (Hd. of M. 1904/23 to N.A. Lisbon).

South Atlantic

Suspected Raider — S.S. SILVER WILLOW reports vessel similar to ALTMARK on 20/5 in 5:27 N., 48:36 W. steering N.W. S.S. CAPULET may have been in this vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 1844/23).

C. in C., S.A. 1426/22. Following received from Admiral Africa. ~~&~~ VICTOR SCHOELCHER could be in vicinity mentioned at time idicated. Has not reported by W/T (F.O.C.N.A. 1118/23).

Protection of shipping at Cape — C.O.S. hopes Adty. will be able to provide necessary aircraft for protection of shipping. Shortage of aircraft and A/S trawlers. In view of all valuable ships proceeding round Union Coast I consider situation serious and suggest that strong request ~~=~~ be sent for Union of S.A. to retain reconnaissance force on coast (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1625/23).

Mediterranean

Preparations for sabotage — By ships of Royal Hungarian Danube Sea Navigation Co. suspected. Manned by crews of officers class. Precautions to be taken. (C. in C., Med. 2121/23).

War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Cont'd.)

Italian Plans

Italian entry into war contingent upon German success in France. As soon as this is assured operations against Corsica will commence. Preparations to gain control of Western Mediterranean already made. Italian Submarines left for Balearic Is. 21/5 others sent to Cadiz. Intention is to establish submarine bases both places. Attack on Corsica will be combined with attack on Gibraltar with Spanish co-operation followed by attack on Nice from seawards. Inform War Office. (N.A. Rome, 2154/23).

Italian Preparations

Reports received that four ships 4000 to 5000 tons recently chartered for River Plate ~~grain~~ grain trade were requisitioned 21st May with five or six others and some of them said to be loading material (N.A. Rome to D.N.I. 1303/23).

MIRAGLIA (seaplane-carrier)

F.O. agree to adoption of course (a) in S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area 1331/22 should you decide on this action. Decision left to you. If it is clear that MIRAGLIA carries aircraft it is unlikely she would be used for blocking purposes. How to proceed if force is used. The general situation appears to be undoubtedly deteriorating (1st S.L. 2135/23 to C. in C., Med.).

S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1331/22. Consider none of these methods acceptable as they would result in also stopping movements of our own ships and cannot be continued indefinitely. Intend to let MIRAGLIA transit Canal taking such unobstrusive precautions as are possible. (C. in C., Med. 1035/23).

Is MIRAGLIA still at Benghasi. Report date and time of sailing (D.N.I. 1151/23 to Consul). Report also number of aircraft carried and whether any aircraft are disembarked at Benghasi (D.N.I. 1715/23).

Sail DRAGON and one "C" class cruiser immediately for Aden (1st S.L. 2116/23 to C. in C., Med.).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean, Contd.

Italian and U.S.A. ships not to be stopped

No Italian or U.S.A. ships inward or outward bound to or from any Mediterranean ports are to be stopped or diverted for any contraband or export control including examination of mails or passengers. Ships may be stopped for normal identification. Any ships calling voluntarily at an allied port or base are to be controlled as usual with minimum delay (A.C.N.S. 2316/23)

Italian Warships

Inferences from W.I.T. traffic. No indications imminent hostilities. (Capt. O.S., ST. ANGELO, 1746/23)

Services Suspended

Trieste has informed Lloyd Triestino, Singapore express service suspended until further notice. Comment-Express services are CONTE ships. (C.O. I.S., Far East. 0801Z"23)

Italian Preparations

My 2305/21. Recent measures taken include mounting guns in small 14 knot ships similar to BRIONI of Adriatic Line, requisitioning of trawlers on East Coast and placing of nets and Boom defences at principle ports including Benghazi and Zuara Tripoli, Report (d) (4) that two or three ships are loading cement at Naples for the purpose of blocking Suez Canal names not obtained. General indication is that warlike preparations are being made by fighting services in (? time) (N.A. Rome, 1727/22)

East Indies

FALMOUTH

Your 0321Z/18. It is intended that FALMOUTH shall be temporarily attached to the Red Sea Force. (D.O.D. (F) 1657/23)

KENT

Cruising off West Coast of India to keep a watch for Italian shipping expected to pass there. (C. in C., E.I. 0935/23)

China

Bitish M.V's laid up in Yangtse

Request immediate telegraphic report of particulars of such ships suitable for naval use in view of possible bargain with Japanese over Danish and Norwegian ships chartered to them. (Admty. to C. in C., China 0017/23)

Italian Shipping

Trieste has informed Lloyd Triestino Singapore Express service suspended until further notice. Comment. Express services are not Conte ships. (C.O.I.S. Far East 0801Z/23)

Austrailia and New Zealand

WESTRALIA

My 0913 Z 14 May A.C. Naval Board have ordered WESTRALIA to proceed to Freemantle. (A.C.N.B. 0610Z/23)

War Diary

23.5.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

H.M.S. ROCHESTER — Missed by torpedo 0800/23 in position 49:11 N., 8:45 W. apparently about 10 miles to Southward of position where DUNSTER GRANGE was attacked at 2157/22. A minute later ROCHESTER gained an asdic contact and carried out 3 attacks. No visible results (A.S.W.D. 261).

Submarines Reported

0800 — Reliable fix, position 49:11 N., 9:15 W., at 0800. MONTROSE and other ships ordered to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 1051/23).

0811 — U/B attacking British DUNSTER GRANGE last reported in 49:30 N., 09:00 W., steering 105° at 2334. WAKEFUL, ARABIS, ROCHESTER, and DEPTFORD hunting. (C. in C., W.A., 0811/23).

1330 — 35:36 N., 6:16 W. P/S reported by French dr. TRAMONTANE B.4 (I.C. 0460/40).

South of Cromer — Asking if estimate of number of U-boats south of Cromer can be given. (C. in C., Nore, 1639/23). No estimate can be given. (D.D.I.C., 2016/23).

1548)
1719)
1806)
1956)
2019) — Unreliable fix, enemy submarine reported in 47.30 N., 09:30 W. (C. in C., W.A., 1812/23) My 1812. More reliable D/F fix places U-boat in 48:30 N., 08:10 W. at 1806. (C. in C., W.A., 2002/23) WAKEFUL and WINCHELSEA ordered to hunt. Warning DORSETSHIRE of this and 0800 report (C. in C., W.A., 1945/23).

1330/22 — By CDT. RIVIERE. Now considered informed. (I.C. 0460/40).

Submarines Attacked

0801 — By ROCHESTER see ships attacked.

German Merchant Ships

SALZBURG — Leaves Galati 26 May for Istanbul.

RHAKOTIS — Arrived Antofagasta 1100/23.

War Diary

24.5.1940.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT

Calais

At 1344/24 the Brigadier reported that he was holding the perimeter of the town. He had no reserves of S.A.A., no artillery other than A.T., no tugs or drifters, no ships in port, no power or water in the town, no cranes working. The French forces had evacuated and all roads were held by the enemy, who were attacking on S. and W. forces.

The Germans cover the harbour entrance by a concealed battery to westward of Calais and the 4 destroyers sent to support our troops were heavily bombed. WESSEX was bombed and sunk, BURZA was hit forward by two bombs and proceeded for Portsmouth at 5 knots, VIMIERA was extensively damaged by near miss and will require docking; she has no casualties. Most of the crew of WESSEX are safe. All destroyers have now withdrawn, the naval and military authorities having agreed that they serve no useful purpose.

The hospital ship ST. JULIEN was shelled by coastal guns off Calais at 2230/24.

Havre

French trawlers have destroyed 3 magnetic mines and one floating mine.

Zeebrugge

The French demolitions were to be carried out at 2000/24.

Norway

R.A. Narvik took over operational control and administration of the ships at 0800. R.A. 18 in SOUTHAMPTON arrived at Harstad 24/5.

The GLORIOUS with 3 destroyers left Scapa p.m. /24 and is expected to fly off her Hurricanes to Skaanland 26/5. The destroyers FAME and FIREDRAKE have been slightly damaged by shell fire.

LUTZOW

The crews of 2 Danish fishing vessels sunk by SPEARFISH S.E. of Doggar Bank at 0300/20 confirm the time and place of SPEARFISH'S attack on a German warship 11/4 which they state to have been LUTZOW; she was beached near FREDRIKSHAVN subsequently refloated and sunk in Kiel Bay, and is a total loss.

Canadian Destroyers

The Canadian Govt. have undertaken to send 4 R.C.N. destroyers to the U.K. They have asked that CARADOC or another cruiser may be sent to Halifax to assist in A/S protection. The destroyer FRASER is also to proceed to Halifax.

Cables

Trawlers operating from Yarmouth have cut four telegraph cables between Aldebrugh and Domburg.

SITUATION REPORT

Cables Contd.

Spanish trawlers are suspected of cutting cables in the Lisbon and Gibraltar areas; and it has been suggested that the Portugese Naval patrol of Caescaes should be reinstated, to prevent these operations.

British Air Activity

The more important southerly patrols were flown A continuous patrol of the Belgian and Dutch Coast, as far North as the Maas L.V. was flown from 2200/23 to 0600/24 and will be flown nightly during the present moon from Calias to the Hook with the object of giving warning of enemy M.T.B's attempting to attack shipping at Belgian and North French ports.

Coastal Command night operations were not flown owing to bad weather.

War Diary

24.5.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Beach Landings

Proposing A/A guns which can cover beaches be used to engage enemy landings unless actually occupied in primary role of H/A fire (D of L.D. 2308/24) Appropriate action taken (Air. Min. 1435/25)

Fifth Column Activity

Letter containing NELSON's proposed programme had been opened amateurishly and resealed. (C. in C., (H.F. 1858/24)

Movements

Destroyers under V.A. Dover ars being reinforced by 3 from Home Fleet and 2 from Harwich to replace those damaged in recent operations off French coast. (D.C. 2008/24)

Operation LAMP

Operation completed. BARBADOS arrives Grimsby 1800 tonight Friday (F.O. Humber to Adty. 1544/24 My 1544. Result negative (F.O. Humber 2135/24)

Operation Lyster

Naval Forces sail 0830/24 for operation EF (Adty. to Air Ministry Carry out operation EF. Force E to arrive 03330/25. Sail force E and Minesweepers accordingly. Demolition parties and stores to be disembarked before sailing (Adty. to C. in C., Nore 1343/23)

My 1343/23 Blocking is to be carried out at both ports immediately on arrival. (D.O.D.(H) to F.O.D.E.

Operation DF is not to be carried out tonight Friday. BORODINO, ATLANTIC GUIDE and CAROLINE MULLER to return to sheerness with suitable escort. (D.O.D. (H) to F.O.D.E. 1400/24)

On arrival Force D to remain at four hours notice. (Adty. to C. in C., Nore 2141/24)

Operation XD

Following from Com. Swinley of XD Party F. C.R. primers not yet arrived here. Delay has seriously jeopardised success of operation. Request instructions. (V.A., Dover, 1609/24)

Operations Quentin and Quixote

The four Aldeburgh Domburg cables have been cut (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth to Adty. 0910/24)

Operation Quentin and Quixote, ref Adty. 1516/23 para 1. to commence daylight 26th May. Request arrange escort. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth to C.in C., Nore. 1612/24)

War Diary

24.5.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations Quentin and Quixote Contd.

Operation Quentin, ref. Adty. 2140/21, completed. Signal 1841/22 (as to cable cutting) not yet carried out (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth to Adty. 1745/24)

Boulogne

French demolitions delayed owing Belgian opposition not expected to take place about 200/24 and in any case before/evacuated by Belgian troops (D.O.D. (H) 1858/24 to F.O.D.E.)

Calais

FRENCH COAST

WOLFHOUND to enter Calais as Guardship and for close action against enemy. Small enemy parties reported to have landed on quay (N.O.I.C. Dover to WOLFHOUND)

Request armed guard of 100 R.M's be sent to Dover immediately for duty on quays at Calais (Dover to Adty. 1342/24)

Brigadier is holding perimeter of town. No reserves of S.A.A., no artillery other than A/T guns, no tugs or drifters, no ships in port, no power or water in town, no cranes working. French forces evacuated. All roads held by enemy who are attacking on S. and W forces. (Situation at 1230/24 as received from Commodore Gandle P.S.T.O. V.A. Dover to Adty. 1344/24)

BURZA to join VIMIERA and WESSEX for close support of Calais (V.A. Dover to BURZA 1429/24)

Enemy aircraft attacking Calais (WESSEX to Dover 1624/24)

Enemy in Southern portion of Calais (V.A. Dover to Adty. 1743/24)

200 Tanks going from Wissant to Calais. Immediate help required. Am proceeding to investigate (VIMIERA to Adty. 1634/24)

GALATEA and ARETHUSA to be prepared to bombard [illegible] conse led battery ashore to W. of Calais. (D.O.D. (H) to C.S. 2. 1349/24)

Havre

Request ruling as to keeping ships at outer harbour quays to evacuate 8000 to 10,000 men as requested by French Commander of Garrison (B.M.L.O. Marceau to Adty. 1705/24)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations, French Coast, Contd.

Boulogne, Ships Damaged. — As result of action at Boulogne yesterday, Dover destroyers damaged as follows (details re WILD SWAN, WHITSHED, KEITH, VENEMOUS, and VENETIA) Consider it very desirable that all these ships should return to their home ports as soon as possible for repair and rest (V.A. Dover, 1345/24)

Boulogne, Evacuation — One more ship must be sent (VIMIERA 0209/24 to F.O. Dover) About 200 are left (VIMIERA 0301/24

Request 2 destroyers suitable for operating on French Coast may be lent to Dover as soon as possible (V.A. Dover 0712/24 to C. in C., Nore)

Calais — WESSEX repeated GULZAR from V.A. Dover do not take any further action as regards evacuation at present (V.A. Dover, 0924/24 to Adty. for information)

Narvik

MANELA — Four full trucks and three half trucks of H.A. ammunition shut out from MONARCH OF BERMUDA and urgently required at Narvik are to be embarked in MANELA. (D.O.D. (H), 1146/24)

Harstad — The Northern entrance is closed to navigation (R.A. (S) to TRUANT 1922/24) Request you sail Military Hospital Ship A.B.A. immediately to Harstad. (D. of S.T.O. Liverpool 1954"24)

One A/A cruiser is to be sailed for U.K. and placed under C. in C., Nore (Adty. to F.O. Narvik. 2313/24)

SEVERN — To spend most of her patrol between Bud and Halten Islands. (V.A.S. to S.9. 1229/24)

Norwegian Seamen — Request decision whether unemployed Norwegian merchant marine officers and men my be given passage in returning convoy to England to obtain employment. Numerous applications received but impossible to verify bona fide intentions other than virtual production of discharge books. (R.A., Narvik, 1742/24)

Floatplanes — Adty. 1201/22, Para. 7, and my 1846/22. In view of altered conditions here consider SWORDFISH float planes are unsuitable for use here. Tromso would be suitable base for SWORDFISH but this has no A/A gun defences. It is therefore proposed that 816 Squadron should not be sent, but that 701 Squadron strength should be maintained at 6 I E and 3 I R WALRUS which type is eminently suitable for present

ferrying/

HOME COMMANDS

Operations- Narvik

Floatplanes, Contd. ferrying and A/S duties. Further propose in view of danger to MANELA from air attack and feasibility of accommodating present maintenance of personnel and stores ashore that she should return to U.K. (F.O. Narvik, 1654/24)

Aircraft Carriers

GLORIOUS To be sailed so as to be ready to fly off Hurricanes to Skaanland on 26 May (Adty, to C. in C., H.F. 0115/24)

To sail at noon 24th to a position North of Andesnes Point suitable for flying off 46 Squadron R.A.F. to Skaanland which should be reached p.m. 26th. Then to return to Clyde. (C. in C., H.F. to GLORIOUS 2331/23)

GLORIOUS screened by ARROW, HIGHLANDER, and WREN sailed from Scapa for Narvik (C. in C., to F.O. Narvik, 1945/24)

Request exchange HAVELOCK to ARROW in GLORIOUS screen (C. in C., H.F. to F.O. Narvik 1935/24)

Iceland

Port Services Brigadier and N.O. i/c Reykjavik consider introduction of Examination Services at Reykjavik and Hafnar Fiord essential, for which two 6" batteries with personnel urgently required. Brigadier considers he cannot at present protect sea-approaches. (N.O. i/c Reykjavik to Adty. 1401/24)

Local Defence Naval Reconnaissance today Friday at Hafnarfiord shows very accessible pier there a source of grave danger. Large vessels with troops and artillery supported by warship gunfire could easily effect surprise landing. (N.O. i/c Iceland to Adty. 2238/24)

Admty. 1188/22. Craft can be obtained locally. System of inspection put forward in my 1114/20 is now in force, harbour launch being used costing £2 per day. (N.O.I.C. Iceland) (1032/24)

Submarines

Positions 0700/24 (Adty. 0011/24)

War Diary

24.5.1940.
Friady.

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity

Carrier Squadrons

My 1932/21. 803 and 804 Sqdns. to be brought forthwith the their authorised I.E. complements of aircraft (12 Skua and 12 Gladiator respectively) (D.N.A.D., 1240/24)

Your 1240. 804 Sqdn. now completed to twelve Gladiators at Hatston (Hatston to Adty. 1636/24

A/A Defence, Ships in Port

Adty 2326/22 Agree that armed M/V's in port may engage hostile Aircraft with own guns and Lewis guns with fuses set at permanent settings as supplied, but only after public air raid warning sounded and only if enemy is actually attacking. A/A Defence Commanders will give assistance acting through N.O's i/c of ports. Request Adty. be asked to issue parallel orders (H.Q. Fighter Command to Air Ministry 1730/24)

Enemy Air Activity

WESSEX
BURZA
VIMIERA

WESSEX bombed and sunk off Calais. Majority of crew saved BURZA hit by 2 bombs speed reduced to 5 knots requires docking, no casualties. VIMIERA damaged near miss. will require docking, no casualties. (V.A., Dover, 2036/24)

Heinkel Markings

Heinkels (? observed) with black and white under wings in imitation of our Fighters (Narvik to Ships Narvik Area 1137/24)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Havre — French trawlers destroyed three magnetic and one floating mine on 24th (B.N.L.O. Marceau to Adty. 1730/24).

Suspicious Objects

Pentland Firth — Object, possibly floating mine, observed from S. shore of Pentland Firth in 004° W. (T.O.O. 0001/24).

Channel — Unidentified floating objects have been reported in Channel recently (I.C. 0460/40).

A red double conical floating object floating on its side observed 18 miles S. of Portland. (I.C. 0460/40).

Torpedo-shaped objects, painted yellow with propellors showing above water, eighteen inches to two feet out of water, four propellor blades; one sighted 3 miles S. of Start Point, and another 5 miles W.S.W. of St. Catherine's Point. (I.C. 0460/40).

Enemy Intelligence

2 M.T.B.'s — 2 enemy War Motor Boats reported by aircraft 180° distance 2 miles from 188 CPWY 52 (Aircraft No. 16 Group to Chatham 0217/24).

3 ships — In line ahead course N. 53:45 N., 6:0 E. (3 miles N. Borkum Riff) 2130. Aircraft report (I.C. 0461/40).

1 trawler — 1 enemy trawler flying Danish colours in 56:23 N., 4:53 E. (100 miles 302° Horns Reef). Bombed but apparently not hit 1950. (Donibristle 1950/24).

2 Convoys — Sighted 17/5 See German Merchant Ships.

1 M.V. Bombed — One enemy M/V 800 tons at 51:45 N., 03:09 E. bombed by aircraft at 0145/24. Damage unknown. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham to H.Q.C.C. Adty. 0420/24).

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Enemy Aircraft Casualties — German Air Force casualties lost and severely damaged since 10 May are 1417 not including reports from H.Q.B.A.F.F. not received for four days (Air Min. to H.Q. 1747/23).

2 M.T.B.'s Attacked — Two Motor T.B.'s attacked by Aircraft at 0320/24 in position 51:05 N., 01:55 E. Result unknown (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, to H.Q.C.C. 0730/24).

Outpost Vessels — 2 salvage vessels and 3 escorting vessels, possibly outpost vessels, off Rottumeroog (N. of Ems) 0600-0700 aircraft report. (I.C. 0461/40).

1 M.V. and 5 escorting vessels, probably "outpost vessels" stationary 53:45 N. 6:42 E. (10 miles N. of Borkum) 0642. Aircraft report (I.C. 0461/40).

M.V. bombed — M.V. about 4000 tons bombed 53:35 N., 6:38 E. (9 miles N.W. Borkum) 0645 aircraft report (I.C. 0461/40).

Shipping

Foreign Small Craft — Request report names and types of foreign naval and fishing craft previously reported without names as having arrived your port. (D.S.V.P., to N.O.I.C., Dartmouth, Harwich, etc., 1142/24).

Miscellaneous

Strike — At Camper & Nicholson (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1726/24).

Peterhead - Egersund Cable — Anticipated operation to cut it will take place about 3/6 and occupy not more than 2 days given good weather. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1721/24).

s.s. ADVANCE — Finnish, suspect (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2320/24).

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous (Contd.)

Ice Bothnia Gulf of Bothnia closed due to ice. (A.N.A. Stockholm 1224/24). Swedish heavy ice-breaker YMER has been operating at Kvarken so far without success. (A.N.A. Stockholm 1601/24).

Weather

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea	Light and variable.	Extensive fog particularly in North.	Very poor in N. moderate to good elsewhere.
Horns Reef	Light and variable.	Showers mist.	Moderate.
Channel	S.W. light to moderate.	Cloudy occasional showers.	Moderate to good.
Western Approaches	S.S.W. light to moderate.	Overcast.	Good.
Norwegian Coast	Light and variable.	Fine or cloudy fog patches in South.	Good, but poor in South.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

S.S.LAURISTON — Ashore near Greenlines, Stronsay (Wick Radio, TOR 1849/24).

EFFINGHAM — Press report that sabotage on part of Norwegian pilot is alleged to have been responsible for loss of EFFINGHAM (Allied Newspapers).

S.S. RAJPUT — Reported by Daily Mail ashore in Hoogly River, p.m./23.

Italian Fleet — Positions etc. (C.O.S. ADMIRO 1625/24).

Reports present arrival from Spain of five Hunnyredmilla Fighters formerly used in Civil War (C.O.(I) Gibraltar to Adty. 1012/24).

KEX — Sailing Genoa 23/5 postponed (from Amt. Rome) officially stated in Rome sailing postponed for technical reasons (N.O.I. New York).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Positions — At 1300/24 (Adty. to C. in C., W.A. 0024/24).

U.S.S. MANHATTAN — Adty. 1322/19 and 2316/23. U.S.S. MANHATTAN was due a.m. 25/5. Unless ordered to do so it is doubtful if Master will come in voluntarily on account of Neutrality Act. (F.O.C.N.A. 1130/24).

South Atlantic

Sal Island — Is owned by the Italian Consul and has large aerodrome under Italian control in event of war. Request early action to force Portugese maintain efficient guard there with Allied observers in view possible threat to Dakar, Freetown, and Convoy route. (C. in C., Med. to Adty. 0929/24).

Germans in Uruguay — My 1945/20. Steps being taken against German underground activities in Uruguay. Consider that report that arms have been found is without foundation. Uruguayan people are beginning to realize their danger, but doubt whether they can offer much resistance. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1941/24).

Guiana Invasion — Reported Germans in Brazil planning to invade Guianas with 6000 men transported in German ships now in Brazilian port. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro 1109/24).

Mediterranean

15th D.F. — Propose 15th Destroyer Flotilla should revert to old title of 2nd Destroyer Flotilla (C. in C., Med. to Adty. 2002/24).

Italian Fleet — Positions etc. (C.O.S. ANGELO 1658/24).

Majorca — Reports recent arrival from Spair of five Messerschmidt Fighters formerly used in Civil War (S.O.(I) Gibraltar to Adty. 1012/24).

REX — Sailing Genoa 29/5 postponed (Press Asst. Rome) officially stated in Rome sailing postponed for technical reasons (B.U.P. New York).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Italian Preparations

Italian fishing trawlers of which normally about ten in Istanbul have been gradually sailing for Italy last few days and it is reported not expected to return. This is unusual as fish still plentiful. Also Adriatic Fishery Offices here reluctant to book definite truck space near Future. (Beyoglu 1150/24).

Egyptian Defence

I concur with Ambassador Egypt's telegram 342 May 18th to F.O. Financial arrangements with Egyptian Govt. on defence expenditure must be generous and cover whole field. (C. in C., Med., 1455/24).

Italian Preparations

My 1303/23. Italian Steamship P.O. 7289 tons being converted into Hospital Ship at Trieste where due 24/5. Rumoured that Port Naples will be closed to passenger traffic from June 5th and reserved for military transports. LEROS and MONTE GARGANO, reported loading mines about May 22nd. Sailing of MERG POLO from Trieste to Egypt postponed. There are signs of an Expeditionary Force being prepared. Rumours name Greece or Egypt or Corsica as probable objectives. (N.A. Rome, 0114/24).

America & West Indies

Canadian Destroyers.
CARADOC, FRASER.

On account of situation in Home Waters Canadian Govt. offer to send 4 R.C.N. destroyers to U.K. They request CARADOC or another cruiser may be sent to Halifax. In order to assist in A/S protection of Halifax it has been decided FRASER should also proceed to Halifax. Be prepared to sail cruiser and FRASER at short notice (A.C.N.S. (A) 2009/24 to C. in C., A.W.I.).

China

Italian Preparations

Shanghai reports Italians making hurried land sales in French concession (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0908Z/24).

Shanghai reports agent stated all Lloyd TRIESTINO sailings from Italy, will be stopped early June. Comment. My 0801 2/23 refers. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0923Z/24).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia & New Zealand.

Troop Transports

Your 0255/23. Cover for these sailings is of little value in wide oceans. If close escort not available for entire passage adequate security will be provided in present circumstances if liners are escorted for 2 or 3 days from ports of departure and arrival and given widely evasive routes. Arrangements for AUSTRALIA etc. In view of new situation created by diversion of shipping via Cape sailing of considerable number of troops in single liners greatly complicates escort problem; hope movements of troops will in future be restricted to regular convoys as far as practicable (A.C.N.S.(A) 1932/24 to A.C.N.B).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Convoys

17th May two Convoys of ten and four ships respectively sighted steering 130 degrees through position 57:50 N., 06:00 E. Range too greet to attack or see whether ships loaded or light (V.A.S. to Adty. 1814/24).

China

AUGSBURG

N.D.L. Line Dairen has been informed that AUGSBURG is to be delivered to Dutch Captain arriving end of May. (D.D.I.C., 1501/24).

War Diary

24.5.40.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

KYMA — Greek ship, states torpedoed and sunk without warning at 0012/24 in position 110 miles S. of Ireland on passage to Avonmouth. (ENCHANTRESS to C. in C., W.A. 2030/24).

Submarines Reported

0855 — Submarine contact by SCIMITAR at 230 N.F.B.P.19 (Similar to C. in C., Portsmouth 0855/24).

1200 — Unidentified submarine sighted by fishermen app. 063:55 N., 022:45 W. graded RO. (S.O.I. Reykjavik to Adty. 1432/24).

1513 — Military report submarine at 58:58 N., 03:25 W. Graded C.4 (A.C.O.S. to Adty. 1601/24).

1947 — By D/F enemy unit probably U-Boat at 59:55 N., 00:00W. (D.D.I.C. 2123/24).

17th May — Submarine believed German communicated Island of San Miguel in Azores by boat with two men on night of 17th May. Graded B.2 (N.A. Lisbon to D.N.I. 0929/24).

0536 — Indefinite position off Mouth of Ems. Graded A.1.

0012 — 63:55 N., 22:45 W. (30 miles W.S.W. of Reykjavik) by fishermen.

Submarines Attacked.

0905 — Submarine attacked by SCIMITAR at 220° NFBP 13 (SCIMITAR to C. in C., Portsmouth 0905/24). Result doubtful (SCIMITAR to C. in C., Portsmouth 1200/24).

2042 — VANSITTART carried out Depth Charge attack on suspicious contact at 315° JSBP 21. (MAIDSTONE to C. in C., H.F., 2115/24).

War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Zeebrugge — The French carried out a modified scheme of demolition as approved by the King of the Belgians. Photographic reconnaissance will be made am/26 to ascertain the exact positions of the blockships and the effectiveness of the demolitions. The blockships arrived at 0300/25, having been attacked by aircraft on passage.

The Germans landed parachute troops early 25/5.

Dunkirk — Four French ships arrived pm/25 with ammunition for the B.E.F. The Belgian Govt. were evacuated in 2 M.T.B.'s to Dover.

Calais — The whole of the harbour from the entrance to Quay Paul Devot was under rifle and shell fire and large fires were caused.

Batteries west of Calais shelled, amongst others, hospital ships sailing to and from Dunkirk.

Calais was heavily attacked by the Germans with about 200 tanks and motorised columns. 3000 British and 800 French troops are defending the town but have only two or three tanks left out 40. The Brigade Group, 48th Divn. from the East is marching to their assistance. VERITY has taken ammunition and 60 R.M.'s and 4 officers for duty on the quays.

Dieppe — Enemy bombers have done considerable damage to shipping in the harbour and buildings surrounding the docks. In addition to the hospital ship MAID OF KENT (sunk 21/5) the hospital ship BRIGHTON, has been sunk and also the Greek S.S. GALAXAS (4393 tons).

Havre — Sweeping of the Channels was continued today and 3 mines were exploded. The Panama tanker JOSEPH SEMP (7088 tons) swung over a mine at 0320/25 and was sunk. Some ships left the harbour, but shipping in the Seine is still held up.

Gulf of Bothnia — A Swedish icebreaker has been operating at Kvarken (130 miles from Lulea) so far without success.

War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

German M.T.B.'s An M.T.B. was bombed and believed sunk at 0214 west of the Texel.

Two enemy M.T.B.'s were seen and attacked by our aircraft some 15 miles west of Texel; both M.T.B.'s were hit with M.G. fire and several bombs were close misses; one Anson was shot down, but JAVELIN rescued the crew.

Mining Further mine laying in the East Coast Barrier was completed.

Casualties Armed trawler CHARLES BOYES was blown up off Yarmouth.

T.S. Mine sweeper HARRIER was damaged by a bomb early am off the S.E. coast but returned to Sheerness without casualties.

SOUTHAMPTON was holed by bomb splinters (3 below waterline), temporary repairs effected by plugging, Captain, 10 officers and 7 ratings wounded. Off Narvik.

CAIRO bombed, 4 wounded, main wireless and D/T aerial shot away.

British Air Activity Night patrols were flown over the Ems, the Dutch and Belgian coasts and southern North Sea during the night 24/25. Eight Hudsons attacked the fuel tanks at Rotterdam during the night 24/25 and obtained 3 direct hits. Gardening continued. A direct hit was obtained on an M.T.B. off the Hook at 0214/25 by an aircraft of Coastal Command.

11 Sword fish successfully bombed various targets near Gravelines.

Enemy Air Activity A few bombs were dropped at aerodromes near the East coast. No damage was caused.

The meteorological flight extended to 62:30 N., 7.00 W., unusual so far north and west. There was much activity against ports on Belgian and French coasts and at Narvik.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Northern Patrol — Suggested should be shifted to a line N.W. from approx. 56:00 N., 8:00 W. as a guard and warning against enemy ships approaching Ireland. Request your views. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., H.F., 2330/24).

Trawlers' Machine Guns — Adty. have made available for ground defence 600 machine guns ex trawlers. (Air. Min. 1220/25

Harbour Defence — Desired to investigate use of torpedo tubes to guard harbour entrances. Dover, Southend, Ramsgate appear suitable (D. of L.D. 1648/25).

Liverpool — Requesting Defence Regulations, 1939, Park I article 14, Section 1 (B) be put into force in connection with Royal Liver Buildings, Liverpool, in which Adty. offices are situated. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1524/25).

Glasgow — Requesting alternative line of communication to the telephone in this area (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1610/25).

Neutral Ships — Adty. 0120/24. In view of possible use by enemy of Ostensible neutral vessels to transport troops, request advance information of known movements of neutral merchant ships round northern coasts be communicated to me. (C. in C., H.F. 1123/25).

Parkeston Quay — Additional personnel and stores required owing to departure of CYCLOPS and all naval defences of west end of Parkeston Quay. (C. in C., Nore, 1735/25).

Coast Defence Batteries. — Re A/A S/L for use with 47 naval 6" coast defence batteries about to mount. (D. of Home Defence and A/A 1900/25). Adty. 2142/24. Arrangements for battery crews and parties for Hythe, Margate Deal, Tyne, Walton-on-Naze and Aldeburgh. (D. of L.D. 1547/25, 1915/25).

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions (contd.)

Demolition — Adty. 1244/23 (immobilisation of ports) Demolition schemes now ready at Newhaven, Littlehampton, Worthing, Shoreham, Brighton and Eastbourne. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1747/25) Proposals are to be forwarded for blocking entrances to harbours at Shoreham and Littlehampton (C. in C., Portsmouth, to N.O.I.C. Newhaven. 1913/25).

Berthing — When be thing Allied and Neutral vessels, care to be taken that they are not placednear any points of vital importance where this can be avoided, telephone exchanges in particular. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1829/25).

Ships' Demolition Outfits. — To be reduced to minimum necessary to provide scuttling charges and to destroy asdics in vessels so fitted, remaining stores being despatched to depot. (C. in C. Nore, 1540/25).

Landing S.E. Coast — In view of the unavoidable delay in moving Nore forces through the Downs during dark hours, necessary to point out that any attempted landing during the night south of Ramsgate can be dealt with initially only by forces under your command. (C. in C., Nore, to C. in C., Portsmouth and V.A., Dover, 1116/25).

Tyne — Vulnerability of Warkworth Harbour, (North Sea Pilot Part III p.59). German and Dutch colliers have used harbour regularly. Beach to Northward shelving and sandy suitable for landing amphibious tanks. Land in rear suitable for parachutists. Action taken - patrol drifter off entrance, military guard at harbour, dredger and barge ready to be sunk at short notice. Suggest more drastic action of blocking harbour. (F.O., Tyne, 1705/25).

War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Allied Submarines

Positions 0600/25 (V.A.S. 1742/24). Positions 0600/26 (V.A.S., 1739/25, D.C., 2114/25). Positions 0700/26 (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 2131/25).

Operations - French Coast and Belgium

Zeebrugge

Parachute troops have landed in Zeebrugge. (VEGA, 0420/25).

Le Havre

D.S.T.O. Le Havre reports sweeping of Channels continued and also around shipping. No mines exploded. 59 ships left the harbour and roads. Ships are allowed to proceed in and out only with permission. Everything here quiet. Quays have been considerably cleared. Am endeavouring to sail or bring out into tidal harbour all British vessels (ends). (B.N.L.O. 1737/25).

Dieppe

S.T.O. Dieppe reports vessels 12 ft. draught con tie up in outer harbour at S.R. quay. However there is no A/A protection and all bombing was from low altitude. French authorities state that if vessels are sent to port it will only lead to further raids. Suggest 2 minesweepers be sent to clear Channel and if necessary shallow draught personnel vessels could enter provided they remain for an hour either side of high water. Port at present closed. Estimated 2 magnetic mines inside pierhead and about 12 outside entrance. 3 dredgers sunk, also hospital ships MAID OF KENT, Greek ship GALAXION and (hospital ship) BRIGHTON, one small trawler. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1843/25).

Situation at Dieppe a.m./25/5. Air bombardment of port p.m. yesterday by eight aircraft. Hospital ship BRIGHTON sunk alongside. Entry to port partly blocked by trawler sunk in entrance but port closed due to suspected magnetic mines. No sweeping facilities available all these being employed at Havre and in the Seine. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1514/25).

War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

French Coast

Ships for Dunkirk

4 French ammunition ships proceeding Dunkirk arriving about 1430 with ammunition for B.E.F. Fighter protection required during approach to Dunkirk and unloading (Air Min. 0830/25).

Hospital ships to and from Dunkirk are being shelled by batteries westward of Calais. (V.A. Dover, 1847/25).

Zeebrugge

Positions of block ships (D.C. 0756/25).

Cherbourg

From D.S.T.O. Cherbourg. No air raids. Wharves and quays intact. port open. Rail facilities intact. Troops and QAIMNS embarking hospital carrier loading. 300 Dutch troops remaining. (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 1446/25)

Bordeaux

My 2100/23 (request for steamer to evacuate British refugees). Local circumstances having improved, special arrangements no longer appear necessary at present. (Consul, Bordeaux, 1600/25).

Calais Demolition

From O.I.C. Demolition, Calais. Ready for the service ordered. Propose exploding charges as enemy attack. 0951 (V.A. Dover, 1039/25).

Calais Defence

Sec. of State to Brig. Nicholson. Defence of Calais to the utmost is of highest importance to our country as symbolising our continued co-ordination with France. The eyes of the Empire are upon the defence of Calais, and H.M. Govt. ~~and~~ confident you and your gallant regiments will perform an exploit worthy of the British name. (D.M.O. & P., 1358/25).

Hospital Ships

Hospital ships to and from Dunkerque are being shelled by batteries westward of Calais. (V.A. Dover, 1847/25).

Aircraft Reconnaissance

One anson to carryout a reconnaissance of beaches between Calais and south of Boulogne with object of locating any parties of British troops said to be making their way south. Positions to be noted and ~~feared~~ passed by V/S to our trawlers patrolling within 5 miles of French coastline. (CHATHAM 1930/25).

HOME COMMANDS

French Coast (Contd.)

Calais, Message to Troops

Following to be sent to Calais by boat as arranged by Commander M/S. From War Office to O.C. Troops, Calais. Every hour you continue to exist is of greatest help to B.E.F. Govt. has therefore decided you must continue to fight. Have greatest possible admiration for your splendid stand (ends). Evacuation will not take place and craft not required for above purpose are to return to Dover. (VERITY and WINDSOR to cover Commander M/S and his retirement. (F.O.I.C. Dover, 2330/25).

Operation Quixote

Trawlers will be working in approx. positions LSWY 0515 and CPWY 3430 tomorrow (Sunday). Destroyers on patrol to act in support if required. (C. in C., Nore, 1715/25).

Narvik.

RESOLUTION — Asking if she is still required (D.O.D.(H) /25).

Plans — Adty. 2005/24. How far are French aware of decision? If French forces not informed, request in interest of secrecy the information should be given through me, not through French Govt. Fully appreciate necessity for secrecy and of active action against enemy. Could any light force be spared to harry coast between Mosjoen and Bodo and so delay German advance north working preferably with carrier planes? (F.O. Narvik, 0932/25)

Norwegian Warships — Norwegian Naval C. in C., informs me he is now sending FRIDTJOF NANSEN, U.K. urgently requests she may be docked, refitted and equipped with A/A armament (F.O., Narvik, 1544/25).

ECHO — To return to Harstad and direct CORMINSTER to proceed there (F.O. Narvik, 1620/25).

Skaanland — Confirmed Skaanland ready to receive Hurricanes after 2000/26 (R.A., Narvik 2008/25).

War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Narvik (Contd.)

Naval Batteries Adty. 1930/10. Personnel, material and ammunition of Naval U.P. Batteries now in MANELA to be disembarked. Personnel to return to Depot. Material and ammunition to be despatched to Parkhead and retained there for present. (D.O.D.(H) 2236/25).

Trawlers C.S.1 2230/23. Request 3 A/S trawlers lent to Tromso for D/S patrol may return to Harstad, urgently required to replace casualties. (R.A. Narvik, 0955/25).

Convoys Escorts for N.P.4 and N.S.4 (C. in C., H.F. 2314/25). Revised composition of N.P.4 and N.S.4 (D.O.D.(H) 1448/25).

Aircraft C. in C., H.F.'s 1935/24. R.A. Narvik's 2008/25. Request HAVELOCK R.V. with GLORIOUS in 70° N. 12° E. at 1700/26. At 2000/26 GLORIOUS will be in 70° N. 15° E. ready to fly off 46 Sqdn. on receipt your order to do so and confirmation that conditions on coast are suitable. (GLORIOUS 2309/25).

East Finmark Your 0930/24. Situation in E. Finmark unchanged except for small improvements in details of defence. O.C. Troops is personally confident Russians will not assist Germans in attack on Finmark, but he received today message handed in Tromso 1600/24 from Norwegian Military H.Q. to effect that British Military H.Q. Harstad now fear attack from Murmansk by German units in transports or aircraft. As this is in direct contradiction to Adty. 0316/23, request elucidation (C.S.I. to F.O. Narvik, 1854/25).

Supplies Through Sweden. Adty. 120 Minister for Foreign Affairs today informed H.M. Minister that no sealed trucks were allowed through Sweden in any circumstances no convoys of food were being sent through, all consignments from Germany to Norway were most carefully searched. (A.N.A. Stockholm, 1652/25).

War Diary

25.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Faroes - Iceland

Situation — All possible precautions in being, but force is dispersed more than I like due to wide area to cover. Enemy could undoubtedly land in other parts of this large island without my being aware as I have insufficient aircraft at disposal to obtain information. Occupation of Faroe Islands by enemy real danger not only to me but to civilian population here, as not only could they establish base without my being aware but bomb Reykjavik and civilians from Faroes. Have no real A/A defence. Consider stationing of 6 flying boats, not Sunderland aircraft at Reykjavik equipped for bombing essential. Wing Com. Barnes concurs (Alabaster, Reykjavik, to W.O. 1426/23, received in War Reg. 2215/25).

ULSTER PRINCE — Not to sail without further orders. When is it expected she will be ready? (C. in C., N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1032/25).

ACASTA)
ARDENT) — To remain at Faroes. Will be required to R.V. with oiler BROOM DALE and convoy 5 other ships bound for Narvik area to U.K. (C. in C., H.F. 1346/25).

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Submarines.

V.A.S. 2309/24. Concur this is worth trying. It would also assist surface ships which might be required to make the passage from the north outside the destroyed area. Too much reliance would not, however, be placed on the buoy being in position as the enemy may sink it. (C. in C. H.F., 1221/25)

SEVERN — Upper c.t. hatch leaking. Returning to effect repairs (SEVERN 0220/26) (Sailed for Statlandet area with despatch 2141/25 (Capt. (S) 9. 2144/25)

SPEARFISH — Patrol Report. Sperry out of action from 13th May onwards and magnetic compass very unreliable due to wiping. 0300/20 took off crews and sank two Danish fishing vessels in B F T S 5835. Danes confirm place and time of SPEARFISH attack on SCHEER but say ship was LUTZOW, that she was beached close to Frederikshaven subsequently refloated and towed towards Kiel but sank in Kiel Bay off Point Gulstav and is a total loss. Danes also state (1) German minefield in vicinity of Hertha's Flat. (2) Frederikshaven-Skaw Channel runs close inshore. (3) Als and Frederikshaven used for embarking troops and tanks (4) Norwegian submarine was brought to Frederikshaven. (V.A.S., 1736/25)

Air Craft Carriers

ARK ROYAL, FURIOUS — My 1932/21. It has now been decided that ARK ROYAL should be kept fully equipped with her squadrons. 810, 820, and 800 are, therefore, to remain on board and 821 will be embarked shortly.

FURIOUS is to land 801 squadron complete to Abbotsinch for subsequent transfer to the South if ordered. 818 squadron complete to be landed at Campeltown for subsequent transfer if ordered.

As previously arranged 803 and 804 squadrons will remain at Hatston and 806 squadron proceed to Worthy Down. (5 S.L., 1315/25)

War Diary

25.5.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity

Bergen — In view of Admty. 1952/24, intend carrying out bombing attack on suitable targets in Bergen at first possible opportunity utilising Sjuas of 806 Sqdn. (A.C.O.S. 1205/25)

Stavanger Aerodrome — 12 Hudson aircraft from Wick and 3 from Lenchars detailed to attack Stavanger Aerodrome commencing 0200/26 and finishing 0236/26 (C. in C., Rosyth 1802/25)

Bergen — Attack by Skuas Cancelled (A.C.O.S. 1205/25, 1615/25)

Bombing restrictions — Cancel all submarine bombing restriction areas at 1759/25 institute restriction areas 1800/25 as follows (16 group H.Q. 1600/25, H.Q. C.C. 1532/25)

Recognition Signals — Probable that S.D. 158 routeing, recognition and identification of aircraft has fallen into enemy hands. All recognition signals should be treated with great reserve. (Air Min. 1224/25)

Norwegian Coast — No reconnaissance of Norwegian coasts possible today owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1210/25)

French Aircraft — French offer services of 11 Chance Vaught Dive Bombers from Cherbourg (Air Min. 0845/25)

803 Sqdn. — Admty. 1240/24 3 Skuas for 803 Sqdn to be despatched Hatston tomorrow (Sunday) four remaining replacement aircraft to follow as early as possible. (C.D.B., 1609/25, 1611/25, 1613/25)

M.T.B's Attacked — Aircraft reports that at 1912 hours two M.T.B's sighted in position CPOX5518, course 193 degrees T 25 knots. Correct recognition signal of the hour was sent with no reply other than A.A. Fire which burst very close to Ansons A/48, U/500, F/500. A dive bombing attack was carried out from 1400 feet to 300 feet, no direct bomb hits but very close misses, well directed bursts of front and rear gun fire was seen to enter both M.T.B's. U/500 was seen to be hit in the port engine at a height of about 500 feet and disappeared ujder control at about 100 feet in an easterly direction. Crew of aircraft U/500 picked up by destroyer. (Chatham 2235/25)

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

Enemy Air Activity

Am being attacked VXWY 2253 (unknown ship, 01.03/25)

Air Attacks continue VXTS 2309 (0235/25)

GREYHOUND — 4 aircraft bombing VXDN 0032 (GREYHOUND 1131/25) No hits (1145/25)

SAON — A/S trawler, attacked 154 South Foreland 9 (SAON 1134/25)

DEVONSHIRE — Bombed (F.O.Narvik, 1306/25 (see Narvik)

CAIRO — 4 wounded, bombing casualties today. Main W/T and D/F aerial shot away. (F.O. Narvik 2230/25.

SOUTHAMPTON — Captain, 1 officer and 7 ratings wounded. Ship has 150 holes above water line varying 1-5 inches, 20 below platform deck, and 3 below water line. (F.O. Narvik 2230/25)

Meteorological Flight — On 24/5 German daily meterological flight extended to 60°N, 5°W. On 25/5 it covered area between Shetlands and Faroes. Unusual for these flights to extend so far west. D.D.I.C. 1641/25)

Mining

Ports Closed — Dover and Portsmouth closed owing to heavy minelaying raids night of 25-26 (I.C. 0462/40)

French Coast — At Dieppe, estimated 2 mines inside the pier head and about 12 outside entrance.

At Havre, JOSEPH SHEP mined and sunk while shifting berth. Passage between Havre and Rouen suspended. The northern entrance and outer part of Seine Channel swept by British sweepers, 3 mines exploded. (I.C. 0462/40)

Tyne — Magnetic mine exploded 087° 1.8 miles from N. Tyne Pier light. (I.C., 0462/40)

Milford Haven — Two floating mines were reported in 51.34.5'N 5.48.5'W., at 2100/25 (Off Milford Haven) (I.C., 0463/40)

Shipping

Ocean Convoys — Positions (D.C., 1839/25)

Economic Warfare — My 2316/23. Para 2. Ships calling voluntarily are not to be detained any longer than is necessary for accomplishment of purpose of call. Even if examination cannot be completed in that time ship is to be allowed to proceed. Usual cargo reports are to be rendered but ships are to be released without waiting for authority from

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Economic Warfare Contd. Ministry of Economic Warfare. (D.E.W.D. 1953/25 to C. in C's and C.C.S.O's)

Miscellaneous

ETTRICK, refugees Transport, to proceed from Gibraltar to Bordeaux to embark approx. 1000 British refugees and then continue to Glasgow, not Liverpool. (D. of S.T. 2251/25)

Cancel my 2001/21 Refugee vessels should be sent to Weymouth. (C. in C., Portsmouth)

Swedish Destroyers Your 1321/24 No objection to Swedish destroyers calling Faroes to refuel. (D.O.D. (H) 0036/25) (to A.N.A., Stockholm) No call at Queenstown on 30/5 to fuel from tanker CASTOR. (N.A. Dublin, 1953/25)

WEATHER

0500 B.S.T.	WIND	VISIBILITY	OUTLOOK
North Sea	Variable light	Moderate, Fog in North.	Wind becoming S.E. Fog slowly clearing.
Channel	S.E. Light or moderate.	Moderate or Good.	Wind freshening
W. Approaches	S.E. Fresh	Moderate	Wind veering
Horns Reef	S.W. Light	Moderate	Wind backing
Dutch Coast	S.S.W. light	Moderate	Wind backing
Coast of Norway	Light or Moderate. S.E. or variable.	Mainly good local morning fog in fiords	Similar

Enemy Intelligence

2 M.T.B's Sighted 1912 52.55'N 4.18'E course 193° 25 knots. Bombed, near misses. aircraft report (Chathem 2235/25)

1 M.T.B. Bombed and apparently hit and sunk 0214 52. N 4° E, course 360° (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0545/25)

3 vessels Sighted by aircraft 2130/24 in line ahead size unknown, course northerly, in 53° 45'N 6° 0'E (D.C. 0259/25)

War Diary

25.5.1940.
Staurday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

BEDFORDSHIRE	Lying on her starboard side. Bow submerged up to bridge. Doubt if anything could be salved. (AURORA, 0555/25)
SS. TREVANNION	Damaged by collision and ashore near Rosmo Bay east side of Deerness (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 16/25/25)
FAME FIREDRAKE	} Destroyers, slight damage from shell fire. Narvik, (D.S.)
KASHUBIA BALTENKO	} Supply ships, damaged and beached, Narvik (D.S

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Allied submarines — Positions 0700/25 (Adty. to B.N.L.O. Marseam 2007/24)

French Forces — Positions, Convoys and patrols 1200/25 (D.S. 0253/25)

German ships at Vigo — It is possible that German ships may shortly attempt to break out from Vigo. Arrange for one of group seven to act as support of French inshore patrols, in concert with Admiral West (A.C.N.S.(A) 2044/25)

South Atlantic

Air Reconnaissance force on Union Coast — N.O.I/C Simonstown's 1625/23. This question is being dealt with by Admiralty and Air Min. (A.C.N.S.(A) 1716/25)

Watch for Raiders — Admiralty 1840/22 (Watch to be kept by cable and wireless operators to receive reports of raiders) Coastal watch on 500 Kc/s is now being kept by Ascension. Request this fact may be promulgated generally (C. in C., S.A. 1521/25)

Mediterranean

Situation — Your 0403/24 H.M. Govt. do not intend legal nicetie to prevent action but are in the best position to decide when relations have become critical and you will be informed. Should you consider the situation has become or is becoming critical, you must obtain approval before taking action. (1st S.L. to C. in C., 1734/25)

PATRIS — Your 1700/4 For time being it is considered further sailings should be suspended and SS PATRIS removed from danger area (A.C.N.S. (A) 0300/25 to N.A. Belgrade)

Italian Tankers — Following from S.O. (1) Stamboul. Italian fishing Trawlers which have been gradually sailing from Black Sea to Italy are not expected to return although fish still plentiful. Adriatic Official at Stamboul unwilling to book space for near future. Alexandria-Authorities report Italian Steamship ICCW ((MARCO POLO) not repeat not returning to Alexandria all local Authorities informed (corrupt group) (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1221/25)

Italian Shipping — My 2316/23 implements agreement being negotiated that Italian ships will embark cargo covered by Navicerts. Same arrangement applies to U.S. Ships and the few remaining neutrals will probably come in. Until agreement is established and proved reliable

and/

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Italian Shipping Contd.

and in case naval control should be resumed, observation and identification of traffic in Aegean should be carried on, using no more ships than necessary. Special care should be taken to give Italy no possible excuse for claim that neutrality of Greek territorial waters is not being respected. (D.N.W.D. 1322/25 to C. in C., Med)

Press reports sailing of Italian liners postponed, REX from 29th May to 12th June. CONTE DI SAVOIA from 13th June to 23rd June. NEPTUNIA from 25th May to 21st June. AUGUSTUS due to sail 27th May also postponed

Cargo vessels in American waters reported not as yet affected. (D.N.I., 1042/25)

Italian Shadowing

On 12 May H.M.S. CHAKLA when in position 35° 44'N 27 42' E, was circled 4 times at very close range by 2 Italian flying boats. In view of difficulty in identifying neutral aircraft it is requested that danger of this practice may be pointed out to Italian authorities. (C.S..3, 0057/25, to Amty and Ambassador, Rome)

PATRIS WARSAWA

Sailing from Split with Polish troops. Polish authorities propose to accept risk and continue transport of such personnel to Marseilles, but if situation further deteriorates to ship them instead to Beirut. (A.N.A., Belgrade 1300/25)

Greek Ships

Asking for any information of assumption of control of Greek merchant ships by Greek Navy. (D.N.I., to N.A., Athens 1452/26)

East Indies

Dispositions

Intend CALEDON, DRAGON shall for present operate in East African and Ceylon areas respectively (C. in C., E.I. 19342/25)

Your 1651/23 In order to have one A/S vessel in Persian Gulf as soon as possible and to add one M/S sloop to Red Sea Force. I would prefer FALMOUTH to go to Persian Gulf. On arrival there CLIVE would join Red Sea Force. (C. in C., E.I. 19592/25)

Consider mine sweeping should now be ~~set~~ instituted at Port Sudan. (C. In C., E.I. 19362/25)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies Contd.

R.A.F. Squadrons — Ground personnel of Nos 11 and 39 Sqds., R.A.F. urgently required to proceed Aden and Egypt. Understood held up due to Diversion of shipping. Report what is situation (D.T.D to JOCRIM 1933/25)

Ammunition — Admty. 1202/24 British GLENORCHY due Colombo 28/5 from Hong Kong has 4.7 in ammunition for Alexandria. Intend transhipping this and other naval stores arriving Colombo for Mediterranean to Bombay for storage ashore there pending first convoy, if F.O.C.E.I.N. can arrange storage. (C. in C., 0322/25)

China

Cruisers — COLOMBO, CERES will be withdrawn for service elsewhere unless you urgently wish to retain them on your station. (A.C.N.S. (A) 2045/25 to C. in C., China)

Danish Seamen — Objection to defence arming on grounds of not being at war with Germany and feared retaliation on families. Propose ship should sail to U.K. unarmed and crew relieved by allied crew in U.K. (R.A.C., Malaya) (03092/25)

Australia

CERES — Commonwealth Govt. is informing U.K. Govt. that proposed services in Australia of CERES and COLOMBO are relinquished. (A.C.N.B., 0329/25)

A.C.N.B. 0329. Unless you urgently wish to retain COLOMBO and CERES on your station they will be withdrawn for service elsewhere. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., China 2045/25)

War Diary

25.6.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies.

Canadian Destroyers. N.S.H.Q., Ottawa's 1052/24 and your 1001/25 Para B of my 2009/24 assumed that the four R.C.N. destroyers would be sent to U.K. from Halifax force. Selection of course rests with C.N.S., Ottawa (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., A.W.I., 1911/25)

Admty. 2009/24 FRASER to be sailed to make fourth destroyer for U.K. as in my 1052/24 SAGUENAY in need of refit. ASSINIBOINE will be refitted by 30/6. OTTAWA should be serviceable by 15/6. Will co-operate to utmost with any disposition your suggest. (C.N.S., OTTAWA, to C. in C., A.W.I.)

War Diary

25.5.1940.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Ships carrying iron ore continually passing through Gota Canal. Nationality uncertain. Further report will be sent. (Goteborg 1641/25)

War Diary

25.5.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

CHARLES BOYES — Armed trawler. Blown up in Would whilst sweeping (N.O.I.C., Yarmouth, 1410/25) C.O., (Temp. Skipper C. Reynolds, RNR) 1 officer and 13 ratings missing (Admty. communique 1515/26)

JOSEPH STEEP — Panamanian tanker, 7083 tons, swung over a mine at Dieppe and was sunk at 0320/25 (I.C. 0462/40, D.S. 26/5)

Submarines Reported

0202 — Reported by HACKAL in 52.15'N., 03.04'E., about 50. E.S.E. from Lowestoft at 0202. (JACKAL, 0216/15) GALLANT and JAGUAR sent to assist in hunt. (N.O.I.C., Harwich, 0352/25)

1830/23 — HIBISCUS reports that at 1830 G.M.T. 23/5, in 52.25'N., 3.34'W., contact was made with submarine. Contact investigated and after approx. half an hour HIBISCUS prepared to attack. Submarine then made British submerged identification signal on Fessenden. HIBISCUS remained in contact approx. one hour until merchant ships in neighbourhood had passed clear, then proceeded on course. (F.O.I.C., Portland, 1135/25) Contact obtained could not have been a British or Allied submarine. (C. in C., W.A., 1331/25)

0856 — Bearing of U-Boat from Brest at 0856 was 356° distance unknown. (C. in C., W.A., 1001/25)

French report (doubtful) indicates possibility of 2 submarines being between Lorache and Cadiz on 23/5 (F.O., Gibraltar, 0152/25)

Estimated Dispositions — 3 in Western Approaches, of which 1 is towards Channel Approaches, probably 1 near Shetlands, some in Southern North Sea, probably one near S.W. Iceland. (D.D.I.C. 1353/25)

War Diary

26.5.1940.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Dover and Portsmouth closed

Were closed, owing to suspected magnetic mine laying by enemy aircraft during the night 25/26. 35 enemy aircraft were located in the Portsmouth area.

It is believed that 23 enemy bombers accompanied enemy minelayers which operated off Portsmouth, but no bombing took place; possible targets were obscured by fog or mist.

A report that 22 parachutists had landed near Dover proved to be false.

Dunkirk

The port is open and French reinforcements have arrived in the area. The port was, however, heavily bombed by the Germans, and the railway and oil tanks were reported in flames.

Calais

At 1300 the situation was critical. 300 men under Comdr. Gandell were holding the Quay Maritime and the remainder were in the Citadel. The Germans held the greater part of the Northern Town. The French troops at Fort Risban were quite demoralised. It might be possible to evacuate some 300 troops but decision is essential today as to either reinforcement or evacuation.
The harbour was under shell fire and disembarkation of howitzers considered impracticable.
Aircraft report a large fire at Calais at 2237/26.

GALATEA escorted by GRAFTON and air escort and spotter aircraft bombarded German positions at Calais at 0730/26. At 1830, ARETHUSA, screened by GRAFTON, continued the bombardment begun by GALATEA with aircraft spotting, to destroy the batteries harassing shipping bound for Dunkirk.

WINDSOR and VERITY are on patrol off the port.

Boulogne

French troops are holding the Citadel. The docks are on fire. There is heavy firing. Small craft have been trying to rescue Guardsmen on the beach in the neighbourhood.

Dieppe

The entry of the port is still partly blocked by a sunken trawler and the port is closed due to suspected mines. No sweeping facilities are at present available, sweepers being employed at Havre and on the Seine. Extensive damage to buildings and shipping in the harbour by enemy bombers. There is no anti-aircraft protection whatever for the port.

Le Havre

The channel from Tamiarville to the Havre

SITUATION REPORT

Le Havre Contd. Barrage in the estuary of the Seine was swept by 3 trawlers. A convoy of 25 ships proceeded safely to sea and 20 ships afterwards entered the port.

Cherbourg At 1446/25. The port was open, wharves, quays and rail facilities intact. No air raids.

Zeebrugge Aerial photographs of the position of the blockships were taken.

Norway ENTERPRISE arrived at Scapa at 1900/26 with about 20 tons of gold, and was to sail for Plymouth a.m. 27/5.

TRUANT is to leave the Tromso area to patrol the west coast of Norway.

CURLEW, providing AA protection in Narvik area with COVENTRY, was bombed and sunk at 1945/26.

Fleet oiler OLEANDER was seriously damaged by a near miss at Harstad at 2230/26, and was beached. It is feared she will be a total loss, though attempts to salve the cargo are being made.

Boom defence trawler LOCH SHIN was bombed at Harstad 26/5 and capsized after beaching. She is a total loss.

British Air Activity Normal patrols were flown. 9 Patrols, involving 57 aircraft, were flown over France and Belgium, where large formations of enemy aircraft were encountered. 86 bomber aircraft bombed their alternative targets owning to low mist. (Bombers are now given alternative targets). 18 Blenheim aircraft left at 0600 to bomb river crossings at Courtrai. 18 Blenheims left at dusk to bomb an aerodrome north of St. Pol, where Germans were unloading air borne petrol.

Enemy Air Activity Meteorological flights between Spurn Head and Le Havre during 26th are believed to be preparatory to further enemy air operations.

Offensive activity continued in Dutch, Belgian and French Coast area, Dunkirk and Calais being heavily bombed, and British aircraft spotting for ships bombarding were also attacked.

Italy. Preparations for entering war at shortest notice continue; but considered Mussolini may await outcome of present fighting in

War Diary

26.5.1940.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Italy Contd.

France before deciding. It is rumoured that many young Germans now swarming into Italy are part of a German parachute contingent to operate with Italy which now has no parachute corps.,

U.S. 3.

The Australian Troop convoy (QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, MAURETANIA, ANDES) arrived at Cape Town a.m. 26.

War Diary

26.5.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Search of Ships — Admty. 2110/15 If action not already taken, all foreign ships in British waters except French ships are now to be thoroughly searched without delay. You should call on the Military, Customs and Police for any assistance required. (Hd. of M., to all C's in C., and F.O.'s in C. at home. 0507/26)

Tyne Ports — Your 1705/25 Are there any other small ports in your sub. command not mentioned in the list for immobilisation which you consider could be used by the enemy for landing tanks or other armoured vehicles (C. in C., Rosyth, 1209/26 to F.O., Tyne)

Search of Ships — All Foreign ships in Hartlepool have been searched. Nothing to report. (N.O. Hartlepool to C. in C., Rosyth 1845/26)

Norfolk Broads — Steps to be taken with police to render incapable of use at short notice all motor craft on Norfolk Broads. (Hofor London 0 0126/26, 2119/26)

Landing Grounds — Aircraft Pilots instructed to inform local Chief Constable of any land observed made suitable for enemy air craft use (Air Ministry 1200/26)

Telephone Exchanges — Re possible disruption of telephone centres by Fifth Column, consult local Military and Police and place guards on local Telephone Exchanges (R.A.N.A.S. to Home Air Stations 1504/26)

Movements

GLORIOUS — At 2009/26 GLORIOUS will be at 070° N 015°E ready to fly off 46 Squadron if so ordered and coast conditions suitable (GLORIOUS to R.A. Narvik 2309/25)

WALRUS A/C — WALRUS will R/V with you 070° N 012° E at 1700/26 (R.A. Narvik to GLORIOUS 1316/26)

ENTERPRISE — Arrived Scapa 1740/26 (with Norwegian gold) F.O.C.C.S. to Admty. 1820/26)

REVENGE — To escort ANTONIA and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND leaving U.K. 30th May for Halifax (Adty. to C. in C., Rosyth 2136/25, C in C., Rosyth 1503/26) Reason for escort (D.O.D. (F) 2132/25)

Nore Command — State of ships 26/5 (C. in C., Nore 064[illegible]/26)

War Diary

26.5.1940
Sunday.

Home Commands

Operations

Operation DYNAMO

W/T Link

A ship probably A/A destroyer to proceed to Dunkirk to act as additional W/T Link arriving after dark (Adty. to C. in C., Nore 1706/26)

Sailing of Dutch Coasters

Forty-five Dutch coasters to sail as soon as possible to French ports indicated (Admty to C. in C., Portsmouth 1834/26, Adty. to C. in C., Nore 1835/26, Adty to C. in C., Rosyth 1836/26, Adty. to C. in C., W.A. 1837/26)

To commence-Covering Forces

Operation DYNAMO is to commence (Adty. to V.A. Dover 1857/26)

All available forces to be used for covering operation Dynamo tonight Sunday. (Adty. to C. in C., Nore 1937/26)

Operation Dynamo will be conducted by V.A. Dover starting tonight 26th. Very large number of small vessels required. Embarkation from Belgium and adjacent French Coasts (Adty. to C. in C., H.F. etc., 2017/26)

CODRINGTON, JAVELIN, JAGUAR, GRENADE to be in position 52° 10' N 3° 0'E. At 0400 and patrol from there to Brown Ridge Buoy as distant covering force. C.S. 2 in GALATEA to rendezvous with GALLANT, VIVACIOUS, and Polish Destroyer BLYSKAWICA at position X at time ordered by C.S. 2. to patrol between position X and South Falls Buoy. (C. in C., Nore, to C.S. 2. 2240/26

Operation B.F.

Operation B.F. to be repeated forthwith using BORODINO and ATLANTIC GUIDE. Minesweepers and LL trawlers not required (Adty. to C. in C., Nore, 1336/26)

Naval Forces sailing about 1600/26. Expect arrive 0400/27. Request fighter protection Zeebrugge earliest daylight. (Adty. to Air Ministry 1514/26)

Sailed (D.C. 2025/26)

French Coast

Calais

Situation at 0800. Enemy hold greater part of Northern town. They have one heavy and one light battery and plenty of ammunition, but are weary. Our troops in Citadel and round

Outer/

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - French Coast

Calais Contd.

Port are dead beat and require food and water. No tanks left. French troops at Fort Risban in large numbers but quite demor alised. Might be able evacuate say three hundred troops by ferrying to waiting trawlers. Decision essential today as to either reinforcement or evacuation (V.A. Dover to Adty. 1352/26)

GALATEA detailed for bombardment. Expects arrive Calais 0750 with 180 rounds H.E. ammunition (C.S.2 to Adty. 0315/26)

GRAFTON to escort GALATEA from Downs onward. (N.O. Dover to GRAFTON 0346/26)

British ship CANTERBURY reports being fired at from shore when she was just East of Calais No 6 Buoy

Report of aircraft spotting for GALATEA's bombardment of battery near Calais. Attacked about 0915 by 2 M.E. 109. Observer thrown out and considerable damage to air craft. (Chatham 1309/26)

R/V with ARETHUSA at 1745 in position 135 South Fêreland 2, transfer Army Maps, and provide submarine escort to ARETHUSA (N.O.I.C. Dover to GRAFTON 1618/26) On completion bombardment ARETHUSA proceed Portsmouth, GRAFTON escort ARETHUSA till dark and then return Dover. (V.A. Dover 1906/26)

ARETHUSA to be sailed forthwith to carry out bombardment at Calais (D.O.D. (H) /26)

All ammunition expended aircraft does not appear to be able to spot C.P.C. bursts and is returning to base fuel exhausted visibility has deteriorated propse returning to base Sheerness. (C.S. 2. 1014/26)

Dieppe

It is estimate there are two mines inside pierhead and about 12 outside entrance.

War Diary

26.5.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations- Narvik

Aircraft Landings — Recommendations and precautions for landing aircraft at Skaanland (R.A. Narvik to GLORIOUS 0044/26)

Mining — Request S.O. Minelayers or other expert be sent forthwith to settle details of minefields before arrival of mines. Most desirable mines be laid immediately on arrival because of possible air attack. (R.A. Narvik to Adty. 1224/26)

H.A. Ammunition — My 1948/25 estimate of ammunition assumes early arrival of MONARCH OF BERMUDA with 200 tons 4 inch H.A. Ammunition. Without this only three to four days supply remains. (R.A. Narvik to Adty. 1230/26)

S.A. Ammunition — In consequence your 72024/25 it is imperative that 5000,000 rounds belted S.A.A. ammunition be sent in fast M.M. ship at once. (F.O.I.C. Narvik to Adty. 1604/26)

CURLEW — Bombed and sunk today. Believed twenty-five killed and ten slightly wounded (F.O. Narvik to Adty. 1808/26) (See also Air)

LOCH SHIN — Boom defence trawler, bombed at Harstad 26/5. Capsized after beaching and is a total loss. (I.C. 0464/40)

OLEANDER — See Air.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity.

At 0400/26 in 56:33 N., 4:02 E. Aircraft attacked Danish fishing vessel with D/F loop on wheelhouse. Ship shaken and crew abandoned her. (IC, 0463/40)

Reconnoitring Patrols

Following air patrols flown tonight Sunday: Three aircraft from 60° N. to Stadlandet at dawn and two aircraft in area 59 to 61° N. 1 to 3° E. at dusk.

French Coast

Our aircraft shot down thirteen bombers off French coast today and possibly sixteen others without loss to our fighters (Adty. to B.N.L.O. Marceau 2113/26).

Enemy Air Activity

CURLEW sunk

H.M.S. CURLEW sunk by air attack in Narvik area at 1945/26. 25 killed. (I.C., 0463/40) See also Narvik.

R.F.A. OLEANDER

(Oiler) severely damaged by near miss, beaching with full load on board. Attempting to salve cargo. Fear ship is a loss without proper salvage appliance (R.A. Narvik, 2228/26)

2 Trawlers bombed

At about 0815/26, about 12 Junkers attacked 2 trawlers in approx. position 51:00 N., 01:45 E. Trawlers not hit but probably damaged by very near misses. (Chatham Broadcast to Adty. 1309/26)

Mining.

Operation B.S. Nine

2 parallel lines 360° from 52:51 N., 02:47 E. to be laid on Monday 27th May or as soon after as practicable (Adty. to C. in C., Nore, 1227/26).

Mines Exploded.

2 magnetic mines exploded today by L.L. Trawlers in positions 048° Knuckle Lt. one mile and 073° Knuckle Light 6 cables (V.A. Dover to Adty. 1854/26). 2 magnetic mines have been exploded off Portsmouth.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Cont'd.)

English Coasts — German Aircraft active laying of parachute mines off S.E. and S. coasts of England. Portsmouth is now closed. (Adty. 2150/26).

S/L's in I. of Wight state that 3 aircraft circled the Needles for 45 minutes and splashes and 1 explosion were heard. (Air Min. D.S. 313).

Enemy Intelligence.

TETRARCH — Patrol Report. Danes from captured fishing boat state Germans allowed them to fish, North of German declared area and East of 04° E., but W. of this longitude liable to bombing; also that no Danish fishing vessels are operating S. of 56:30 N. (V.A.S. to Adty. 1435/26). They may not fish inside line Rons Channel to Naze and must keep within 3 miles of Danish coast when going to fishing ground. They said our declared Minefield quite safe as all mines have been swept. (C. in C., Rosyth to Adty. 2033/26).

War Motor Boats — Aircraft contact with 4 enemy War M/B's at 52:54 N., 04:11 E. (22 miles W. by S. of Texel) course 240 speed 40 at 1855/26).

W/T Activity — German W/T traffic abnormal, messages broadcast on frequencies associated with minesweepers, patrol vessels and the larger units of the Fleet, Volume of traffic decreased during the night to below normal. Possible some operation is impending. (I.C., 0463/40).

Shipping

Norwegian Ships — Reported that Masters of Norwegian ships are being intimidated by German threat to take their wives and families into Germany, (B.2). (D.N.I., Melbourne, 0631Z/26).

War Diary

26.5.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Weather

0500 B.S.T.	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	S.light, moderate.	Good except in heavy showers.	Similar.
Channel	S.W. light.	Moderate to good in fog patches.	Wind backing to S.E. becoming fresh.
Western Approaches	S.E. to S. fresh	Generally good with fog patches	Wind veering to S.W. fresh.

Probable Weather

Horns Reef	Light variable.	Moderate to good.	Similar.
West Coast Norway.	Light to moderate, southerly.	Moderate to good.	Similar.
Dutch Coast	Light southerly.	Moderate to good.	Similar.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

North Atlantic

ASTURIAS — Serious fire broke out 0200/26. Still burning but under control. Damage serious and will require extensive repair. No casualties. (F.O.C.N.A., 0930/26).

South Atlantic.

CEFN-Y-BRYN — S.O.I Cape Town reports British ship CEFN-Y-BRYN due Cape Town 18/5 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1250/26). Arrived Durban 26/5 (S.O. (I) Cape Town, 2208/26).

War Diary

26.5.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French positions — At 1200/26. (Adty. to C. in C., W.A. 0035/26).

Patrols for German Shipping — German ships may shortly attempt to leave Vigo. Orders for patrols by CHESHIRE and DERBYSHIRE. (F.O.C.N.A., 1006/26).

South Atlantic

Sal Island & Azores — Your 0929/24. Matter has been taken up with French and Portuguese. French ~~urgently~~ urged to keep A.M.C. in vicinity and prepare effective countermeasures. Portuguese urged at once to send effective force to prevent coup. Measures also taken for Azores (Adty. 2142/25 to C. in C., S.A.).

Air Defence of Trinidad — Your 347 of 11/26. Owing to depletion of my forces I have been compelled to withdraw cruiser from Dutch West Indian waters thus leaving Governor Curacao to rely solely upon his own Naval and Air Forces. I therefore do not consider the moment opportune to ask him for loan of aircraft which are presumably being converted for defence of Dutch Islands. Further consider bombing efficiency of these machines manned by any but trained crews very problematical. Suggest you rely upon such reconnaissance aircraft as you aresble to make use of working in co-operation with local Naval forces. (C. in C., A.W.I. 2201/26 to Governor, Trinidad).

Mediterranean.

Italian Shipping — Italian shipping agents Port Said state all Lloyd Triesteno and Adriatica sailings now delayed and Adriatica sailings to S. Africa concelled. P. & O HIMALAYA with two other ships are reported not to have sailed from Italian pàrts, reliability B.2. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal to Adty. 1108/26).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Greek Shipping — Asking for any information of control of Greek merchant ships by Greek Navy. (D.N.I., 1452/26 to to N.A., Athens).

Italian preparations — Reported A.2, that ferry steamers normally running between Naples and islands being requisitioned. B.2, that 2nd Sqn. with battleships LITTORIO U VENETO in company sailed from Speggia 23/5 and passed Ventotene Island 25/5. (N.A. Rome, 1901/16).

Situation — As soon as German success in France is assured Italy will commence operations against Corsica. Preparations to gain control of Western Mediterranean already made. Italian submarines left for Balearie Is. 21/5, others sent to Cadiz. Intention is to establish submarine bases both places. Attack on Corsica will be combined with attack on Gibraltar with Spanish co-operation followed by attack on Nice from seawards. Co-operation of present Spanish Govt. considered unlikely (D.N.I. 0025/26).

East Indies

Troopships — 8 British battalions in 7 troopships for U.K. leave Bombay 6/6 via Cape. KENT escorts from Bombay to Durban (C. in C., E.I. 1226Z/26)

Convoy U.S. 3/1 — Arrived Cape Town am/26 expected sailing 29/5 (N.O.I.C. Capetown, 1156/26).

French A.M.C. CARAIBE escorting transport TAKALINA sailed Durban at 1120 for Tynemouth. (N.C.I.C. Durban to Adty. 1130Z/26).

HOME COMMANDS

China

CERES, COLOMBO — Adty. 2045/25. CERES and COLOMBO no longer required. Presence has been very great help round Dutch East Indies while this was necessary. (C. in C., China, 1427/26).

America & West Indies.

Italian Shipping — My 1004/25. Italian S.S. LEME now detained San Francisco on orders from Genoa. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1016/26).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

It is reported from Kobe that German ships in the port cannot sail without permission from the Japanese Govt. and that some Japanese interests are pressing for facilities to charter the ships. (O.I.C.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

CORRALES at 1134/26 heard SSSS 44° N. 14O (portion missed) W. Turgez. (LEITH 144/26).

Submarines Reported

0015/24 — U-boat sighted 18 miles S. of Galley Head at 0015/24, course westerly (C. in C., W.A. 1309/26).

1935/26 — Unknown submarine my approx. position 53:00 N. 03:00 E. (Aircraft No 220 Sqdn. to 18 Rec. H.Q. 1935/26).

1500 — Portuguese authorities state that at 1500/26 a submarine was ten miles S.W. of Sagres. Source A.O. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon to D.N.I. 2237/26)

2013 — D.F. unknown enemy unit, reliable fix, probably U-boat, 55:50 N., 14:45 W. (D.D.I.C., 2040/26, 0921/27).

War Diary

27.5.1940
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Dunkirk Evacuation of B.E.F.

During the night 26/27 3,800 troops of the B.E.F. were embarked in small craft from the beaches of Dunkirk.

A further 15000 were to have been evacuated during the night 27/28, but the situation deteriorated rapidly during the day, and evacuation continued under machine gun fire and air attack, about 10,300 more men being evacuated during the day.

At 0700/27, batteries believed to consist of at least 40 guns were reported to have been established by the Germans between Calais and Gravelines and were shelling ships approaching Dunkirk. Traffic to Dunkirk was diverted to a new channel to avoid the fire of these batteries.

Dunkirk was continuously bombed during the day. KYNO which was to have landed guns was ordered to return to Portsmouth without unloading. Two hospital ships arrived at dusk.

The German batteries appear to be at intervals of about 600 yards along the coast and about ½ mile inland.

6 Swordfish of No 825 squadron destroyed the first two batteries 9,960 lbs of bombs were released.

Calais

Situation obscure since 0800/26.

British ships ISLE OF THANET and MONAS' ISLE report being heavily shelled off Calais at 0810 and 0816 respectively. ss SEQVACITY was shelled at 0700, 2 miles E of Calais and KING ORRY at 0905. The former was sunk.

The bombardment of the shore batteries east of Calais by ARETHUSA 27/5 was cancelled.

The R.A.F. dropped water and ammunition in Calais during the day, 9 swordfish cooperating with naval units obtained a direct hit on an enemy machine battery.

Le Havre

The channel from Taniarville to the Havre Barrage in the estuary of the Seine has been swept by 3 trawlers. A convoy of 25 ships proceeded safely to sea, and 20 ships have since entered the port.

Dieppe

Magnetic mines are known to have been laid close off the pierheads, and further raids to block available berths are anticipated. The port is without A/A protection.

Cherbourg

D.S.T.O. reported 1730, no air raids, wharves and quays intact, port open, and port rail facilities intact.

SITUATION REPORT, Contd.

Zebrugge

The additional block ships for Zeebrugge were heavily attacked by aircraft at 0356 and 0415/27. SHEARWATER, acting as one of the escorting vessels, was also attacked by M.T.B. at 0120. The first squadron of aircraft to provide fighter protection did not take off until 0459, about an hour after the attack on the blockships.

Narvik Area

British troops have taken up a position 45 miles south of Bodo, on the Bodo-Mo road. Bodo (125 miles south of Narvik) is strongly garrisoned by British forces. Road communications between the 2 places are poor. Progress has been made north of Rombaks Fiord by French troops of the Foreign Legion.

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy reconnaissance aircraft were in action off the east coast and in the Channel, before dawn and after dark, reports of sightings being received from off Cromer, Lowestoft, Harwich and Kent Coast and Beachy Head. The s.s. YEW GLEN was heavily bombed when approaching the Downs from Calais.

In the Dutch, Belgian and French coast area reconnaissance activity was general, but offensive activity was centred near Dunkirk, Zeebrugge and Ostend. The former port was bombed continuously throughout the day, as many as 40 aircraft being engaged at one time. Considerable damage was done and much disorganisation caused in the port. A number of H.M. ships were attacked in this area during the day.

War Diary

27.5.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Submarines

In view of serious situation now developing I consider it most important that all submarines should be available for operation in the centre of southern portion of North Sea. If you concur, request you will order TRUANT to be withdrawn from Northern Norway now and that I may divert SEVERN to patrol in Central North Sea. Further proposed that minelaying by submarines on Norwegian Coast be discontinued so that minelaying submarines may be available for patrol. (V.A.S., 1102/27)

Belgium

It seems possible that the Belgians may ask for an Armistice tonight. (Adty. to C. in C., H.F. 2214/27)

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Northern Patrol In order that the identy of all ships reported by air searches in the Northern Patrol area may be checked, it is considered most desirable that the movements of all ships, both British and foreign, round the north coast or bound to Kirkwall should be reported by N.C.S.O.'s to V.A.N.P. (V.A.N.P., 0001/27) Order for this (D.T.D., 1206/27).

Berthing Positions When berthing allied and neutral vessels care to be taken that they are not placed near any points of vital importance where this can be avoided. (D. of L.D., 1224/27).

Inchkeith Asking that Forth Area H.A. Umbrella may be again extended to cover Fortress of Inchkeith. At present its only A/A defence consists of 2 or 3 pom-poms. (C. in C., Rosyth 1921/27).

Portsmouth Proposing dispersal of production and supply of signal equipment all of which is concentrated in Signal School. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1907/27).

Warkworth Adty. 2142/24 and 2147/24. Battery despatch for installation at Tyne is now to be instaled Warkworth Harbour. (D. of L.D., 2011/27).

Burntisland Your 1823/26. Please confirm that blockship for Burntisland will always be available locally. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1149/27, to N.C.S.O., Methil).

Ports, General Adty. 1904/25. Any preparations which involve undue interference with present working of ports orshipping or existing contracts are to be submitted for prior Adty. sanction. (D. of L.D. 2313/27).

My 0901/1st May. In addition to disguised raiders enemy may try to pass ships through Patrol containing Troops and War Materials. All westbound ships should be identified and examined. (V.A.N.P. 2309/27).

War Diary

27.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Aerodromes — Policy with regard to immobilisation of aerodromes. To apply to F.A.A. aerodromes (A.C.N.S.(H) 1158/27).

Movements

JAGUAR, JAVELIN and GRENADE left Harwich at 0042 for special Operation. (F.O.I.C. Harwich to Adty. 0102/27).

Submarines — Positions 0600/28 (V.A.S., 1741/27). Allied submarines 0600/28, seven off Dutch coast between 52½° N., and 53½° N. (D.C. 2210/27).

Submarine Patrol — Concur in your 1657/25. (D.S.D. to C. in C., Portsmouth, 1916/27).

Operations

Dunkirk, evacuation of non-combatant units of B.E.F.

Evacuation proceeding from Dunkirk. 3,800 troops taken off last night (D.C. 0816/27).

Air Raid apparently finished. Your 0029/27 (sailing ARLEY to act as wireless of D.S.T.O. Dunkirk). No sign of ARLEY. Have only 60 rounds a gun left. Request relief. (WOLSEY, to F.O., Dover, 1215/27).

Dunkirk again being bombed. Fighters engaging enemy. (WOLSEY, 1235/27).

Enemy aircraft bombing Dunkirk. (WOLSEY, 1323/27).

From B.N.L.O., Dunkirk. When may we expect more hospital ships. Situation deteriorating. (WOLSEY, 1520/27).

Hospital ships now approaching. Request continuous patrol. (WOLSEY, 1550/27).

Two hospital ships and personnel ships are proceeding home with VIMY. Is this correct? (WOLSEY, 1837/27) Your 1837. As far as we know, yes. (WOLFHOUND, 1852/27).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Dunkirk, evacuation of non-combatant units of B.E.F. (Contd.)

Two hospital ships due Dunkirk about 2100. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 1956/27).

Your 1922 (re hospital ships requirements). No, two others have passed me. (VIMY to WOLFHOUND, 2055/27).

Following 3 Dutch schuits if loaded with Army supplies are to proceed La Panne, ORANGE, PRINCESS JULIANA and GORECHT. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 1641/27).

Dive bombing attacks, 4 very close misses, no damage, my position 51:16 N. 3:41 E. (WOLFHOUND, 1635/27).

Dunkirk and anchorage being continuously bombed. Fighters must be sent. (WOLSEY, 1850/27).

My ammunition very nearly expended. Please let me know if I can help, if not, when I can return. (WOLSEY, 1858/27).

Arrived Dunkirk with (? party) via Zuidcoate Pass, 4 hour passage. Much dive-bombing, only minor damage. Dunkirk burning fiercely, further report after landing. (S.N.O.(A) Dunkirk, 1735/27).

Bombed terrible. (Dunkirk to Marine, Paris, no T.O.O. recd., 1844/27).

French M.T.B. 24 sailed for Dunkirk at 1845. (V.A. Dover, 1847/27).

Please send every available craft east of Dunkirk immediately. Evacuation tomorrow night is problematical. (S.N.O., Dunkirk, 1958/27).

Port continually bombed all day and on fire. Embarkation possible only from beaches, east of harbour. Send all ships and passenger ships there to anchor. Am ordering WOLFHOUND to load there and sail. (S.N.O., Dunkirk, 2005/27).

WOLFHOUND and WOLSEY are evacuating from the beach and will sail before dawn. (WOLFHOUND 2100/27).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Dunkirk, evacuation of non-combatant units of B.E.F. (Contd.)

MAID OF ORLEANS not to enter Dunkirk but anchor close inshore between Marte-les-Bains and Zuyd Coote to embark troops from beach. All available ships should be diverted to the beach. (V.A. Dover to S.N.O. Dunkirk, 2101/27).

Close the beach at La Panne at 0100 tomorrow Tuesday and embark Air Officer Commanding British Troops, using your boat. This is our last chance of saving them. (V.A. Dover, 2127/27 to GRAFTON and BLYSKAWICA) DOGGERSBANK, VREDE, HILDA and REIGER, released from Southend this evening, are to be intercepted at N. Goodwin L.V. and routed to close the beach between Zuidcoote and Marte-les-Bains, that is, 1 to 3 miles E. of Dunkirk. To be released so as to reach their destination at 2200/28. (C. in C. Nore, to N.C.S.O., Ramsgate 2129/27).

Request up to 200 Lewis Guns with boat mountings be supplied to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate for small craft operating French Coast (V.A. Dover to Adty 1309/27).

Evacuation of B.E.F.

GRAFTON and Polish Destroyer BLYSKAWICA to close beach at Lapanne at 0100/28 and embark all possible British troops in own boats. This is our last chance of saving them. (V.A. Dover, to GRAFTON 2127/27). GALLANT, VIVACIOUS, WINDSOR, VIMY, CALCUTTA, ANTHONY, IMPULSIVE to close beach one to three miles East of Dunkirk with utmost despatch and embark all possible British troops using own boats. This is our last chance of saving them. MAID OF ORLEANS, LORMONT, seventeen Drifters and other craft will be operating. (V.A. Dover to GALLANT etc. 2142/27). Cancel my 2142. Proceed to Lapanne with similar orders (V.A. Dover to CALCUTTA 2235/27). Twenty Cutters with half crews and coxswains to leave Sheerness at 0900/28 in tow of tug for Dover (C. in C., 2259/27). Unless fighter protection provided continually from dawn tomorrow dive bombing will be very serious (Air Liaison, Dunkirk, to F.C. 2350/27).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Dunkirk, Operation Dynamo, Evacuation of Non-Combatant Units of B.E.F.

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

A buoyed channel five cables wide to be established through seven positions between North Goodwin L.V. and Dunkirk. Execution to begin at 1300/27 by SKIPJACK, HALCYON, IMPULSIVE and PATRICIA.

Is it possible to accommodate L.L. Sweepers in Dunkirk or Ostend (N.O. Dover to B.N.L.O. 0747/27) Your 0747. Yes, Dunkirk (B.N.L.O. Dunkirk to N.O. Dover 0956/27)

17 drifters arrive Dunkirk from Westward tonight. Divert to beach as necessary. (V.A. Dover, 2158/27 to WOLFHOUND & WOLSEY).

Calais

Many guns between Les Hommes and Gravelines interfering with shipping (D.C.0816/27).
ISLE OF THANET reported at 0705 under heavy shell fire off Calais. (N. Foreland Radio, 0810/27).
KING ORRY reported at 0905 being shelled off Calais (North Foreland Radio 0905/27).
Aircraft report large Field Batteries App. 7.5 inch firing into Calais from S.W. and S. of Canal Basins 2 and 3 miles from Town, and A/A Battery to W. of Calais firing app. 4 inch shels. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. to H.Q.C.C. 0127/27).
38 Lysanders dropped 224 gallons of water, 22,000 rounds of ammunition and 864 grenades over Calais; 6 Hectors and 9 Swordfish bombed targets in the vicinity during the operation. 3 Lysanders and 1 Hector failed to return.
ARETHUSA bombardment. Cancel my 2328/26 and 2337/26. Operation will not take place. (V.A. Dover to Coastal & Fighter Commands, etc. 0807/27).

Rouen and Havre

French unable to provide escort for store ship AMIENOIS from Greenock for Havre. No British escort available, ship to sail unescorted. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1537/27, D.O.D., 1915/27). Request policy for British shipping now at Le Havre and Rouen. Port liable to be bombed and channel blocked with magnetic mines. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1506/27).

War Diary

27.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Calais

SEQUACITY sunk — British SEQUACITY bombarded by shore batteries two miles to eastward of Calais near Green Buoy at 0655/27. Three hits, ship sank at No. 2 Buoy between south Goodwin and Calais. Crew saved, chief engineer wounded. (N.O.I.C., Ramsgate, 1725/27).

MONA'S ISLE — Intercept 0912, shelled off Calais. (N. Foreland Radio, no T.O.O., /27).

YEW GLEN — Making for Downs from Calais, attacked by enemy aircraft (N. Foreland Radio, 0726, 0852/27).

KYNO — (with 12 pdr. batteries for Calais) is to be sailed for Portsmouth (D.O.D.(H) 1433/27).

Rouen and Havre

Master of British ship FLUOR saw 3 parachute mines dropped near him when in Havre Roads 19/5 and 21/5 in approx. position 49:29:21 N., 01:36 E. (N.C.S.O. La Havre 1200/27).

D.S.T.O. Le Havre reports condition unchanged. Shipping passing in and out and up the Seine. Searching of channels continues. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 2342/27).

Belgian Coast

Following message from Phantom for your action:- A.27,27/5. G.Q.G. request hospital ship off Ostend tomorrow morning. Can you pass Adty. Last message. Closing down. Moving Middelkerke. T.O.O. 1555. Message repeated to Back H.Q., R.A.F. Component, B.E.F. (North H.Q., B.A.F.F. to Air Ministry, 1730/27).

Adty. from Adm. of the Fleet Keyes. As many M.T.B.'s as possible would be invaluable for evacuating important people in certain eventualities. Minimum of (?3) should be held available to proceed to Nieuport immediately on call. (No.9 (Needham) Military Mission to War Office, 1021/27).

Cancel my 1846. 2 M.T.B.'s left Harwich for Nieuport 1930, another at 2100. (C. in C., Nore, 2031/27).

War Diary

27.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Lyster.

Operation successful (F.O.D.E. to Adty 0724/27) If opportunity occurs you are to put an M.T.B. alongside the Wandelaar Light Vessel and capture the crew (C. in C., Nore to VEGA 0012/27).

Operations Quentin, Quixote.

Aldeburgh-Omburg 4 and 5 cut on beach. Lowestoft-Norderney cut 4 miles from Lowestoft. Bacton-Borkum 2 cut 002 deg. 15' East. (N.O.I.C., Yarmouth, 0945/27).

Iceland

Precautions, Defence Needs

After consultation with N.O.I.C., agree that examination service required at early date both at Reykjavik and Hafnafjordur, for which two 6-inch batteries necessary. Further, to guard sea approach coast defence betteries both places essential. In opinion of N.O.I.C. 10,000-ton cruiser or ship could go alongside quay and disembark 1,000 men in ten minutes. This being so, my back doors are wide open at present. Have taken all possible steps to stop landing at piers and beach but as a consequence am to await further orders. (Alabaster, Reykjavik, 2220/25).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations, Narvik Area

Movements

Harstad arrivals British ships OIL PIONEER and CORBINSTER from Scapa. Sailings, British DEVON CITY, German prize ALSTER with iron ore, H.M.S. LA33O and destroyer ESKIMO in tow tug BANDIT, escorted by FLEETWOOD. DEVON CITY and ALSTER have Approx. 300 marines ex MASHOBRA on board. (R.A., Narvik, 1036/27)

18th A/S.S.F.

1401/23. 18th A/S Striking Force have arrived. Owing to further casualties and increased requirements of military situation it is necessary to retain INDIAN STAR, LADY ELSA and ST. KENAN for the present. (R.A., Narvik, 1120/27)

MASHOBRA

Coast defence equipment remaining on board British MASHOBRA, and cannot be removed until ship is salvaged. Request replacements may be sent with reformed R.M.F.U. (R.A., Narvik, 1150/27)

ALSTER

PENELOPE reports that German ALSTER left Skjelfiord for Tromso on 20/4 to disembark cargo, and as far as is known was still there on 10/5. She has a prize crew consisting of 4 officers and 62 ratings from PENELOPE. (F.O., Glasgow, 1212/27)

Horse Boats

Request 10 horse boats and L.S.T.D.C. Pier in EMPIRE ABILITY may be sent to Harstad as early as practicable. (F.O., Narvik, 1322/27)

Norwegian Seamen

Your 1742/24. Unemployed Norwegian Mercantile Marine officers and men should not be given passage to U.K. (Hf. of M. to R.A., Narvik, 1918/27)

ESKIMO

Propose Convoy proceed independently and FLEETWOOD assist towage of ESKIMO. Progress of ESKIMO is 6.9 knots and steering difficult. (FLEETWOOD, 2255/27)

DEVONSHIRE

Must remain in Northern waters. (1st S.L. to C. in C., H.F. 1550/27

BALLINGTON COURT

Sailed for Harstad (F.O.I.C.Greenock to Adty. 1715/27)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN

To embark H.E., 2 pdr., and Oerliken ammunition for Narvik before sailing (D.T.S.D. 1802/27 a.m.

DEVONSHIRE

A.M. 1550/27. Expect arrive Tromso 0600/28 (C.S.I. to F.O. Narvik 1925/27)

British Ship COXWOLD arrived escorted by PRESTON NORTHEND and LINCOLN CITY. (R.A. Narvik to Adty. 2240/27)

27.5.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Narvik Contd.

Transfer all available A.A. ammunition and belting machine for Hurricanes to one of escorting destroyers for immediate transport to Harstad (D.O.D.H to GLORIOUS 2259/27

Operation for capture of Narvik began at 2347 One battalion of Foreign Legion and one Norwegian battalion landed near Narvik, supported by gunfire of fleet and by R.A.F. fighters. (D.C. 0806/29)

War Diary

27.5.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity

Enemy M.T.B.'s

Request 306 Sqdn. may proceed from Worthy Down to Detling dawn 28/5 to provide striking force against enemy M.T.B's Sqdn. will return to Worthy Down at dusk. (H.Q. C.C. 2115/27)

Reconnaissance

Voss and district. Aerodrome apparently under construction. At 0716, sighted two large M/V's estimated 15,000 tons in 60° 49'N 5° 20'E (Donibristle., 1100/27) (2020/27)

Bergen

3 Hudsons from Lenchecs to attack M/V's reported in Bergen at Dawn 28/5. (C. in C., 1954/27)

Stavanger

Report of raid at 0740-0745 (Donibristle, 1005/27)

Mardwick

Report of attack on A/A batteries, N.W. Mardwick, by 6 machines at 1745 (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, to T.C.C./27)

Enemy Air Activity

WINDSOR

Bombed 5'N.W. Calais shortly after dawn by 8 enemy aircraft. (I.C., 0463/40)

SS YEW GLEN

Heavily bombed when approaching the Downs from Calais, (I.C. 0464/40)

VEGA

Attacked by aircraft 51° 22'N 03° 03'E (VEGA 0356/27) Help 51° 22'N 03° 03'E (VEGA to Whitehall 0610/27)

WOLFHOUND

Help (WOLFHOUND to V.A. Dover 1622/27) bombed at 51° 16' N 3° 41'E no damage, (WOLFHOUND to N.O.I.C. Dover, 1635/27)

A number of H.M. ships were attacked during the day off the coast of France and the Low Countries.

LOCH SHIN

Trawler LOCH SHIN bombed and sunk in Narvik area. (F.O. Narvik to Adty. 1958/27)

War Diary

27.5.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Activity — Unusual German W/T activity together with very wide German meteorological air reconnaissance may indicate an impending operation. (D.C., 0228/27)

Danish Fishing Vessel — Air craft report Danish Fishing Vessel in 61° 48'N. 05°40'W steering N.W. at 0400 (F.O.C.N.A. to AQUAMARINE 1410/27) See also Miscellaneous.

SHEARWATER — Being attacked by M.T.B's 51° 20'N. 02° 16'E (about 15' NNW from Dunkirk) (SHEARWATER 0120/27)

HIPPER, Destroyers — Your 2030/26. Cruiser HIPPER and 2 destroyers, viz., PAUL JACOBI and either RIEDEL or SCHOEMANN, entered Trondheim on 9/4, time of arrival not known. (D.D.I.C., 1346/27 to C. in C., H.F.) Your 1346. If this is so which ship was with the battle-cruiser that RENOWN engaged? (C. in C., H.F. 1434/27) Your 1434. Up to present it has not been possible to deduce what part cruisers NURNBERG and LEIPZIG played in Norwegian invasion, and it is thought possible that one of these two ships was in company with battle-cruiser GNEISENAU when latter was engaged by RENOWN. (D.D.I.C., 1653/27)

EMDEN — Reported by Norwegian traveller German cruiser EMDEN lying alongside jetty, naval yard, Oslo, undergoing repairs. (Goteborg, 1633/27)

M.T.B.'s

1255 — 1 M.T.B., 51.59'N., 4.04'E., Hook of Holland (Aircraft report)

1259 — 1 M.T.B., 52.56'N., 4.38' E., 5 miles west of Helder, course 030°, attacked but no hits. (Aircraft report 220 Sqdn.)

1835. — 1 M.T.B., 52.07' N., 2.22'E., West of Orfordness. (Aircraft report 235 Sqdn.) (Attacked by 4 bombs, no hits (Air Min., D.S., 313)

1902 — 4 M.T.B.'s 52.46' N., 4.05' N. (A/C report)

2230 — 4 M.T.B's, 52.00'N., 4.00' E. (F.O.,Dover, 2230/27)

2 large M.V's — Sighted by aircraft 0716, 60° 49'N 5° 20' E estimated 15000 tons (Donibristle 1100/27, 2020/27)

German Attacks on Finmark — By air or road (C.S.I. 1854/25) The possibility of not prbability is always present and must be guarded against. (F.O. Narvik. 1828/27, to C.S.I)

War Diary

27.5.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

Situation at 2000/27 (C. in C., W.A., 1327/27) Positions (D.C., 1900/27)

Fishing

Area permitted to Danes (C. in C., Rosyth 1657/27)

Special instructions are being sent to N.C'sI.C. and Fishing Officers on receipt of which Norwegian, Belgian, Dutch trawlers and Seine net fishing vessels, as well as Danish vessels now in prize are permitted to fish from ports to which they will be allocated by the M. of Agriculture and Fisheries. This is a temporary measure on the understanding that two-thirds of the fishing vessels may later be required for Naval Service. (A.C.N.S., 2332/27)

Mining

Magnetic mine exploded 55° 1'46" 1° 21' 54 W. (F.O.I.C. Tyne to C. in C., Rosyth 1502/27)

Barry Closed

Barry and ports to Eastward closed. Ships entering Channel being diverted to Mumbles Bay. Area within two miles of 51° 18'N 3° 45'W is dangerous due to mines (F.O.I.C. Cardiff to Adty. 1037/28)

Portsmouth

Was reopened late p.m. (27) (I.C.0464/40)

M/S Trawlers at Stornoway

Reference AL.MO10210/40 it is considered that majority if not all M/S trawlers now at Stornoway should be redisposed between Peterhead and Granton. Risk of minelaying in Minches seems less than on East Coast. Request you redispose as think best (D.M.A. to C. in C., Rosyth 1558/27)

War Diary

27.5.1940
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

Force "Z"

Rear Adm. Derrien succeeded in command today by rea-Adm. Cadart, flag remains in auxiliary cruiser EL DJEZAIR (Adm., Force Z 1900/27)

Swedish Destroyers

Re supply of fuel. (N.A. Dublin, 1540/27)

Danish Fishing Vessel

AQUAMARINE to proceed up E. coast Faroes and examine all trawlers sighted. (V.A.N.P. 1410/27)

WEATHER

North Sea	S.E. moderate to fresh in North, light and variable elsewhere.	Occasional rain or showers, local fog or mist.	Moderate generally poor in fog.
Horns Reef	S. to S.W., light to moderate	Rain or showers, local mist.	Moderate
Channel	S.W. Moderate	Cloudy, local mist in east	Moderate to good
W. Approaches	S.W. Moderate.	Cloudy.	Good
Norwegian Coast	Light and variable in north, S.E., moderate in south.	Fine to cloudy with local fog in south	Good generally except in fog.

War Diary

27. 5. 1940.
Monday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

R.F.A. OLEANDER	Severely damaged by near miss at Narvik, beached and feared total loss. (R.A. Narvik to Adty. 2228/26)
LOCH SHIN	Boom defence trawler, capsized after beaching at Harstad after damage by bombs, fear total loss. (R.A., Narvik, 1206/27)
ASTURIAS	Fire extinguished after 30 hours. Slight damage to hull, but ship considered seaworthy. (F.O.C.N.A., 1320/27)
SEQUACITY	Bombarded by heavy gunfire 2' East of Calais. Sank later between Calais and South Goodwin L.V. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate to Adty. 1725/27)

War Diary

27.5.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

French Positions	Convoys and patrols (D.C., 0202/27)
Cables	Your 1228/24 Approved to defer repairs to breaks in cables off Vigo and Lisbon until provision of A/S escorts can be arranged. (D.O.D.(F) 1754/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)
SEBASTIAN	Spanish ship. Complaint brought into Gibraltar and there served with Admiralty Court writ. Report urgently required. (D.E.W.D. to F.O.C.N.A., 2007/27)

South Atlantic

BRIDGEWATER	Amended programme, Lagos to Simonstown. (C. in C., S.A. 1850/27) Cancel my 1850/27 (C. in C., S.A. 1025/28)
U.S. 3.	Radius of ships in days at sea, fuel consumption, etc., (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1235/27
West African Convoy	And troop convoy from India. Re escorts (A.C.N.S. (F) 2300/27)

Mediterranean

Merchant Ships	Your 1243/8/4. Arrangements have been made with owners of ASIS for all communications to be sent through naval channels. Request you inform masters accordingly. (D.A.S. to C. in C., Med. 1238/27)
PATRIS	Your 1800/25, Concur in sailing of PATRIS for transport of Polish troops. (N.A., Belgrade, 1241/27)
Italian Warships	Naval secret call sign identifications. (C.O.S., St. ANGELO, 1604/27)
7th C.S.	Your 1312/26. Newly formed mediterranean Squadron should be designated 7th Cruiser Squadron. (Hd. of M., 2331/27 to C. in C., Med.)

War Diary

27.5.1940.
Monday.

Foreign Stations

Mediterranean Contd.

Communication

My 1447/25 and your 0545/26. Please report for information of War Office whether there is any special cypher means of communication between yourself and ship. It is presumed arrangements have been made for communication between ship and party when landed. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2009/27 to C. in C., Med.)

Greek Shipping

Admty. 1452/26 and S.O.I. 1846/26. Greek Navy have not assumed control of merchant shipping. Ship referred to has been requisitioned for Greek Govt. (A.N.A., Athens, 1915/27)

Italian Preparations
See also German Merchant Ships

Report received Italian MARCO POLO requisitioned for conversion to Hospital Ship. Italian Main Fleet at Taranto. Supply of petrol to private motor cars will be stopped on 1st June. (N.A. Rome to D.N.I. etc., 1820/27)

S/M Sanctions ~~Sanctions~~ varies

Can be ordered by local Authorities as required to cover expected submarine movements (C. in C., Med. to Fleet 1235/27)

British KNIGHT OF MALTA reports Cable ship for past week been working S. of Cape Passaro Steamed North at 1300/26 leaving a buoy 12 miles S. of Cape Passaro, and her attending destroyer remained. (S.O.I. Malta to Adty. 1309/27)

East Indies

R.A.F. Squadrons

Admty. 1933/25 Moves of ground parties of Nos 11 and 39 Sqdns. postponed owing to small pox. (F.O.C., R.I.N., 08022/27

LIVERPOOL

Arrived Aden 27th May. (H.O.I.C. Aden to Adty. 1449/27)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies.

CARADOC	Sailed from Willemstat for Bermuda, 1400/27 (CARADOC, 1635/27)
DOMEDE DESPATCH DUNEDIN	Expect to send CARADOC to Halifax to operate under your orders arriving about June 5. Intend DOMEDE to remain in Caribbean Sea. DESPATCH and DUNEDEN completing refit will be available Bermuda in case of emergency. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0922/27 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)
4 Canadian Destroyers	Arrival in U.K. (C.N.S., Ottawa, 1729/27)

China

Danish Ship	Your 0309/25 Approved to sail ship unarmed. (D.T.D. to A.C., Malaya, 1116/27)

War Diary

27.5.1940.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

Swedish Ports

A.N.A. Stockholm reports German traffic to Swedish ports is normal. (I.C., 0464/40) (A.N.A. Stockholm 1808/27)

Norwegian Ports

80 Norwegian vessels of 80,000 total tonnage are in German occupied Norway. 70 of these are destined to carry coal to Hamburg, Emden and Bremen. (Moscow Broadcast, I.C. 0464/40)

Mediterranean

Italian Preparations

Reported that possibly four ships at Trieste of German Hansa Line have been requisitioned by the Italian Government. (I.C., 0463/40)

South Atlantic

KONIGSBERG

B.2 report, has requested police permit to sail for Pernambuco, possibly tonight. (C. in C., S.A., 2220/27)

East Indies.

WEISSENFELS

7861 tons, at Bandershapur, reported to have received 35 heavy packages from an Italian ship and to be erecting something in her bows. (A.l.) (I.C., 0464/40)

HOHENFELS

STUTTGART, MARIENFELS and WILDENFELS are also at Bandershapur and might engage in sabotage activities in oil area. (I.C., 0464/40)

War Diary

27.5.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

0001 — By Dutch vessel AMAZON off the Owers (N.O.I.C., Newhaven, 0425/27)

Submarine reported off Owers (C.in C., Portsmouth, to WHITEHALL, 0539/27)

Abandon hunt, return to harbour, (C. in C., Portsmouth to SABRE, SCIMITAR, SHIKARI, 1001/27)

Position of unknown enemy unit at 2013/26 was 295° 50 N., 14° 45'W. (C. in C., W.A. 1042/27)

Estimated dispositions — 3 in W. Approaches or further south.
1 in about 56° N., 15° W at 2013/26, probably outward bound.
Probably 1 off S.W. Iceland.
Possibly some in Southern North Sea.(D.D.I.C. 1149/27)

War Diary

28.5.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

JULIEN	French 117 tons, sunk by submarine at 1600/28 about 68 miles W. from Cape Finisterre, Spain. 10 members of the crew landed. (N.A., Madrid, 2132/29).
S.S. ALCA	British (tons) attacked by U/b 0128 in 47:51 N., 9:8 W. 180 miles west of Ushant. (D.C., 0828/28)(Portishead Radio, 0128/28). No further report received. Not in convoy.
JULIETTE	French trawler. Sunk 1700 by gunfire from U-boat 42:50 N., 10:40 W. (I.C. 0466/40).
S.S. ABUKIR	British (694 tons) with several hundreds evacuated from Dunkirk. 33 survivors picked up by CODRINGTON and destroyers in company in approx. 51:29 N., 2:16 E. Survivors stated ship was attacked first by submarine then torpedoed by M.T.B. at 0130. (Capt (D) I. 0801/28).
THOMAS BARTLETT	Lost through striking mine when avoiding shell fire off Calais. 8 missing, presumed drowned. (V.A. Dover, 2044/28).
THURINGIA	H.M.T. Lost after external explosion, presumed mine, whilst on patrol in 51:20 N., 2:03 E. Casualties 14 missing, presumed drowned, including Chief Skipper D.W.L. Simpson, D.S.C., D.S.M., (V.A. Dover, 2044/28).

Submarines Reported

Estimated Positions	Four in Western Approaches or farther South. Probably one off S.W. Iceland and possibly some in Southern North Sea. (D.D.I.C. 1106/28).
2 Submarines	Sighted by fighter aircraft submerging 10 miles N.W. of Dunkirk (V.A. Dover 1200/28). (C. in C., W.A., 1304/28).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported (cont'd.)

2215	By C.G. Strathie Pt., bearing 285° 10 miles course S.W. SIKH investigated, found no contact (A.C.O.S. 2310/28, R.A.(D) H.F. 2325/28, SIKH 0601/29).
1902	Suspected submarine 356:59 N., 2:0 W. 44 miles (? to R.N.A.S. Hatston 1902/28)
0742 G.M.T.	42:30 N. 10:55 W. by French patrol (A.C.O.S. 2157/28 Burnham on Sea Radio 2157/28).
1915	Report received of 3 submarines painted green off Dunmore Head, Dingle Bay, at 1915, steering S.E. (C. in C., W.A., 2301/28).

Submarines Attacked

1609	By WORCESTER(180° W. Hinder Lt. buoy 2 miles) Result wooden wreckage no oil (WORCESTER 1609/28)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Positions (D.C., 0708/29, 0731/28).

Cables CAPETOWN reports red pillar buoy in 36:14:30 N., 13:36 E., p.m. 23/5. Two British cables run close to this position. Italian cable cutting activity suspected. Am having course of British cables followed up with orders to sink any buoys seen. (C. in C., Med., 1301/28).

Situation Distribution of principal Italian ships. Arming of numerous small craft continues. Sailings of all largest liners postponed. Number of specialists recalled to Army increasing daily. Preparations for war short of avowed mobilisation continue. (N.A., Rome, 1922/28).

Libya War vessels at Augusta 26/5. Further reported shock troops militia will sail for Libya 29/5 in Italian ship ARBOREA from Syracuse. (S.O.I., Malta, 2309/28).

East Indies

My 1044/28. No objection to DRAGON carrying out operation ordered in your 0725/28 before proceeding to S. Atlantic Station (D.O.D.(F) 1850/28 to C. in C., E.I.)

CALEDON return to Aden, DRAGON proceed with moderate despatch to Durban calling at Mombasa for fuel. On arrival at Durban DRAGON will come under orders of C. in C., S.A. (C. in C., E.I. 1319/28).

CERES & COLOMBO to reinforce E.I. Station

CERES and COLOMBO have been released by Australian Commonwealth Govt. and are placed under orders of C. in C., E.I. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1043/28).

DRAGON proceed to Bombay to escort KHANDALLA with 300 Indian troops and M.T. sailing 3/6 for Aden and Suez, until darkness on second day out. (C. in C., E.I. 0725/28).

RANCHI orders for sweep to cover shipping of German ships at Kismaya show no signs of leaving (C. in C., E.I., 0611Z/28).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

Blocking of Shat-el-Arab — Amendment to S.N.O. Persian Gulf 2345/26 (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 2030Z/28).

America & West Indies

Chilean Coast — Your tel. 099/27 to F.O. (See Enemy Intelligence) Regret impossible to send cruiser to West Coast of South America at present. My forces now much depleted. Reliance placed on interception in other areas. (C. in C., A.W.I., to Ambassador, Santiago de Chile, 1002/28).

Bermuda Convoys — Adty. 2314, re convoy escorts. Request two additional A.M.C.'s may be allocated if possible. In view of COMORIN's low endurance reported in my 1731/25, request she may be replaced by another vessel. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1303/28).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

South Atlantic

KONIGSBERG — Sailed 0530/28. (N.C.S.O., Para, 0700/28). Possible use of Condor plane, which had been grounded for a week at Para alleged awaiting spare part. (C. in C., S.A., 0615/28).

America & West Indies.

KHAKOTIS — Left Callao as soon as DIOMEDE passed through Panama Canal, and has now reached Callao. Could another Cruiser be sent to this coast? (Sir C. Bentinck, Santiago No.99 27/5).

28.5.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

My 1043/28. It is intended that:

(a) CERES and COLOMBO remain under orders of C. in C., E.I.

(b) DRAGON to join S. Atlantic Station.

(c) DELHI to sail from Malta to join South Atlantic Station via Gib. on completion of refit about 8 June.

(d) CALEDON to rejoin Mediterranean Fleet as convenient before departure of DELHI (A.C.N.S.(F) 1044/28).

North Atlantic

CASTILLO DOROCA — Adty. 1740/18. Position of boarding Spanish S.S. CASTILLO DOROCA was not recorded as she was well clear of territorial waters. (FERMOY 0900/28).

Convoys — Your 1121/28, proposals for escort of convoys. Concur. (F.O.C.N.A. to C. in C., W.A., 1840/28).

My 1140/28 and Ambassador Madrid's 238/27 to F.O. Very desirable in interest of relations with Spain that ship should be released. (F.O.C.N.A. 1540/28).

South Atlantic

Uruguay — Serious danger of Nazi coup d'etat reported (Hd. of M. 1602/28 to C. in C., S.A.).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

ISLE OF THANET	In collision with unknown ship which sank off Dover. Area searched, no survivors. ISLE OF THANET proceeded on voyage (N. Foreland Radio 0157/28, 0300/28, 0421/28, ISLE OF THANET 0326/28 V.A. Dover, 0440/28).
QUEEN ELIZABETH	Cannot be completed before 30/3/41 owing to necessity for removing men for work of highest priority (Dkyd. Portsmouth 1787/28).
TENNESSEE	BRIGAND reports she is breaking up rapidly and any further attempt to refloat her is hopeless. Crew is being taken off (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1345/28).
French P.V.	In distress in Downs. (V.A Dover, 0440/28).

Foreign Stations

S.S. ALAVI	British overdue at Aden since 25/5 (C. in C., E.I. 1121Z/28).
OCEAN REWARD	Drifter. Lost in collision with S.S. ISLE OF THANET at about 0300/28, while on station as examination vessel off Dover. Skipper L. George and 7 others missing believed drowned, also Lieut. H.C. Slater, R.N.R., Examination Officer, and 3 examination personnel. (V.A. Dover, 2012/28 0925/29).
BRIGHTON BELLE	Paddle M/S. Lost after collision with submerged wreck in Downs. No casualties. (V.A. Dover 2044/28).
THOMAS BARTLETT	Lost, mined. (See U-boat Campaign & Mining).
THURINGIA	H.M.T. Lost, presumed mined (See U-boat Campaign & Mining).

War Diary

28.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Havre and Rouen open — Cancel my 1338/26. Degaussed British and Norwegian ships may now proceed to Havre and Rouen (A.C.N.S.(T) 2035/28).

Reduction of Lewis guns in trawlers — Number of Lewis guns mounted in A/S and M/S trawlers to be reduced from 3 to 2 in order to provide A.A. weapons for auxiliary war vessels now fitting out. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1058/28).

Belgian Ships — All encountered to be directed into a British port. Do not treat them as enemies. (V.A.S., 1402/28).

Ocean Convoys — Positions. (D.C., 1905/28).

Miscellaneous

Escorts for hospital carriers. — Under present circumstances should loaded hospital carriers be sailed without escort? (BNLO Brest 1525/28)

Weather

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	E. or S.E. moderate or fresh in E. S.W. light in W.	Moderate or poor extensive fog patches in East and North.	Visibility improving slowly. Wind backing S.E. in West.
Channel	S. or variable light.	Good.	Visibility deteriorating in rain. Wind veering S.W.
Western Approaches	S.W. moderate.	Very Good.	Similar
Horns Reef	S.E. moderate.	Poor, fog patches.	Wind veering S.W.
Dutch Coast	S.W. or variable light.	Moderate.	Wind backing S.
Norwegian Coast	S.E. in South. S.W. in North, moderate.	Moderate in South fog patches, good in North.	Similar.

War Diary

28.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation F.D.15 — See submarines.

Sweeping reports — One Magnetic mine exploded 100° Adty. Pier Lt. 4 cables (V.A. Dover, 2050/28).

M/S Trawler reports having exploded a magnetic mine 57:40 N., 3:45½ W. Have stopped sailing from Invergordon and Inverness (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1530/28).

Lowestoft. — Concentration of M/S drifters and danlayers (D.M.S. 1910/28, 1916/28).

7th & 8th M/S.F. — To sail for Harwich with all despatch to operate under orders of V.A. Dover (D.M.S. 1631/28).

Minesweepers for coast of France — 2 L.L. trawlers for Cherbourg (D.M.S. 1305/28, D.S.T.O. 1240/28).

12th M/S.F. to arrive off La Panne 2200/28
5th M/S.F. to arrive off beach between Zuidcoote and Marte Les Bains, i.e. beach between 1 mile and 3 miles E. of Dunkirk at 2200/28 (C. in C., Nore, 0939/28).

Enemy Intelligence

EMDEN — Has again been reported alongside at Oslo, undergoing repairs. (I.C. 0464/40).

M.T.B.'s — 3 M.T.B.'s bearing 190° 20 miles, my position 52:42 N. 3:45 (Aircraft 220 Sqdn., 1730/28) (Chatham, 2200/28).

6 M.T.B's bearing 280° 12 miles, my position 53:29 N., 5:30 E. (Aircraft 206 Sqdn., 1640/28).

3 M.T.B.'s 52:23 N., 4:18 E. (Aircraft 500 Sqdn. 2000/28, 2006/28)

3 M.T.B's 52:20 N., 4:18 E. (Aircraft 500 Sqdn. 2005/28).

4 M.T.B.'s stationary 015° Terschelling 32 miles. Attacked by Hudson aircraft. No damage observed (Air Min. D.S. 314).

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

4 Destroyers — 4 destroyers, 360°, 1 mile, course 150°, my position 53:29 N., 5:42 E. (Aircraft 206 Sqdn. 2115/28, 2117/28).

Depot Ship — At 1410 aircraft sighted 2 enemy naval vessels believed to be depot ships of Saar class off Ymuiden. (Chatham 2200/28).

2 M.V.'s — A Hudson aircraft attacked 2 M.V's at head of Fens Fiord. Bullets hit superstructure of both ships. Another Hudson dropped bombs at three M.N.'s near Nasrjorden. Result unknown. (Air Min. D.S. 314).

Baltic Sound Base — Your 2002/28, preparation of Baltic Sound as a base for Walrus aircraft. Concur. (C. in C., H.F. to A.C.O.S., 2201/28).

M.Vs. — Three M.Vs. attacked in Fens Fiord, 60:51 N., 5:20 E., at 0250. No hits. (Donibristle, 0615/28).
Reconnaissance of this position, nothing sighted. (Donibristle, 0730/28) ~~60:50 N., 5:31 E.~~.
Two M.Vs. attacked in 60:50 N., 5:31 E. at 0300. Bombs did not explode. Incendiary bombs exploded on cliff above ships and started forest fires. Ships machine-gunned, hits on superstructure. No sign of life in either ship. (Donibristle, 0800/28).

Belgian Coast — No enemy surface or aircraft in area of patrol, large numbers of transports seen. Machine-gun fire encountered from main jetty Ostend outer harbour. (Chatham, 2349/28) Blockships appear to block both channel and canal effectively. (Chatham, 2354/28).

Ymuiden — M.V. across entrance to harbour bombed. No hits. (Chatham, 2200/28).

Large number of transports — Swedish source reports 27/5 a large number of small transports proceeding North along Norwegian west coast. Possible reinforcements for Narvik. B.C. (D.D.I.C. 1918/28).

War Diary

28.5.40.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity

Re M.Vs. engaging hostile aircraft (D. of L.D. to C. in C.'s 1230/28).

French Coast Aircraft carried out protection over areas given from 1615 to 1915. No sign of enemy surface vessels or aircraft. Oil tanks still burning at Dunkirk and Calais. (Chatham H.Q. 2108/28).

Enemy Air Activity

CAIRO Damaged by 2 bombs. 7 killed 25 wounded. Requires dockyard repairs. (CAIRO, 1027/28). Sailed from Harstad for Scapa at best possible speed. (R.A., Narvik, 1926/28).

QUEEN OF THE CHANNEL bombed and sinking at 51:05 N., 02:40 E. (North Foreland Radio to C. in C., Nore: No T.O.O.: Recd. 0323/28, 0447/28).

WAKEFUL Bombed 330° Ostend 9 miles (WAKEFUL 1404/28) Bombed 060° Dunkirk 3 miles (WAKEFUL 1507/28).

CODRINGTON Attacked off Dunkirk (CODRINGTON 1407/28).

GRAFTON Bombed B.R.A.7 (GRAFTON 1515/28).

WORCESTER-SHIRE Bombed position West Hinder Light Buoy (WORCESTERSHIRE 1536/28).

Convoy Odd numbered O.A. Convoy being attacked aircraft in position 180° Beachy Head 10. (GLADIOLUS 2242/28).

War Diary

28.5.1940
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations- Norway

TRUANT — Sailed from Harstad at best possible speed for Rosyth (F.O. Narvik 0400/28)

Ammunition — Transferred from GLORIOUS to ARROW. (GLORIOUS 0545/28)

Request as early information as possible regarding attack on Narvik Town (1st. S.L. 1036/28 to F.O. Narvik)

Ammunition required — My 1948/25 and 1230/26 and 1425/27 when may ammunition be expected? All reserves AA issued. (R.A. Narvik 1356/28)

Admty. 0050/28, Following are capacities of personnel ships. Could probably be increased in emergency. All have 11 days water and 14 days food for numbers given. (D.O.D. (H) 1634/28)

WHIRLWIND
WALKER
CAIRO — Your 1958/27 (re damage to WHIRLWIND, WALKER, CAIRO) Damaged ships must be retained as long as they can be used as it is not possible to send others to replace them. (1st S.L. 1737/28 to F.O. Narvik)

Enemy transports — Transports carrying possible enemy transports of reinforcements. See Enemy Intelligence)

SOUTHAMPTON — To relieve COVENTRY at Narvik as necessary for COVENTRY to refuel at Harstad. (F.O., Narvik, 1602/28)

ATLANTIS — Hospital ship. Do you require her? (D.O.D. (H) to F.O. Narvik 2147/28)

Submarines

From 1200/29 British and Dutch submarines will be operating in English Channel between 3° W and 1° E. Between these limits submarines are not to be attacked until they prove hostile. (C.in C. W.A. 2026/28)
Temporary submarine sactuary, boundaries. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1707/28)

Operation FD 15 — RUBIS reports operation FD15 carried out a.m. /27 (V.A. (S) 1459/28)

SEVERN, Norway — Your 1102/27. Consider SEVERN should continue present patrol and that minelaying by submarines should continue. I am of opinion that a seaborne expedition is just as likely to sail from Norwegian waters as from anywhere else. (C. in C.m H.F. to V.A.S., 2203/28)

War Diary

28.5.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Dynamo-Contd.

Protection Patrol

CODRINGTON, JAGUAR, JAVELIN, GRENADE to establish patrol from 0500 between West Hinder buoy and Kwint buoy, to provide cover for vessels working on Belgian coast (C. in C., Nore 0026/28)

Cancel my 2032/27 (proposed use of CALCUTTA as A/A protection on Q Z S 60 (V.A.Dover 0701/28)

In adjusting your effort ensure protection of Dunkirk and beaches (3 miles on either side of town) from first light until darkness by continuous fighter patrols in strength. Additionally you should have due regard to protection of bomber sorties and provision of support in B.E.F. area. (Air Min. 0205/ 8 to F.C.)

Your 1309/27. Hoped about forty Lewis gun equipments will arrive Ramsgate next 48 hours. No more available at present (D.T.S.D. to V.A. Dover 0032/28)

Fighter protection asked for

Request maximum fighter protection throughout 28th. Suggest C/C patrol Ostend to North and Sandette Bank and Fighter Commands Dunkirk and adjacent beaches. Skuas from Detling are patrolling North Goodwin to Nieuport from 0800 to 1300. (V.A. Dover to C/C F/C 0855/28)

S.N.O. Dunkirk to report every hour the number of men to be embarked from Dunkirk. If the older class destroyers and other vessels cannot compete with the situation destroyers of all classes are to be used for bringing the men off (D.C. 0754/28 to V.A. Dover)

SS ABUKIR Sunk

CODRINGTON and destroyers in company have picked up 33 survivors of British SS ABUKIR in approx 51° 29'N 2° 16'E. Ship left Ostend 2300/27 with several hundreds on board including No 3 British Mission and party of Needham Mission etc., Stated by survivors to have been attacked first by submarine then torpedoed by M.T.B. about 0130/28. 2 of survivors are women. (Capt. (D) 10801/28)

My 2227/27, 10 craft escorted by tug ROSSA sailed 0800 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Thames 0809/28 to C. in C., Nore)

CALCUTTA

Fill up CALCUTTA with military and sail her for Sheerness (N.O.I.C. Dover, 0858/ 8 to S.N.O. Dunkirk)

Boats & Water needed

Your 0758. There are at present 2000 men

HOME COMMANDS

Operation-Dynamo

Boats and Water needed. Contd.

on a Dunkirk beach 7000 men on a (?) dune for which I have no boats available. They are now in need of water which army cannot supply. Unlimited numbers are falling back on this area and situation in present circumstances will shortly become desparate. Am doing my best to keep you informed but shall be unable to report for hours. (S.N.O. Dunkirk 0935/23)

CODRINGTON, JAGUAR, JAVELIN, GRENADE, ANTHONY proceed to East Pier Dunkirk by North Channel and Zuydecote Pass (N.O.I.C. Dover 1007/28)

Channels should be swept

Suggest magnetic mine sweeping of channels being used from Dunkirk is advisable and preferably (? at night) S.N.O. Dunkirk 1725/28)

Route

Route to be used by ships when proceeding from Dunkirk to Dover night 28/29 V.A. Dover 1830/28, D.C. 0623/28)

Boats needed at Brave

I must stress the need for boats and motor launches required at Braye where further 25,000 troops are expected. Much provisions also are required for troops waiting for embarkation (GRAFTON 2229/28 to N.O.I.C. Dover) (Mutilated)

C. in C., Nore 0939. Proceed with all despatch to reach beach 126° (F.O.I.C. Dover 1410/28 to WAVERLEY, GOSSAMER)

M.T.B.'s are patrolling tonight from charted position of Wandelaar L.V. to that of Whistle Buoy (51° 33'½'N20 36'15"E) SHELDRAKE, SHEARWATER close latter position 2015 till 2100 as guide for M.T.B'S arriving

All Corvettes R.V. with VEGA at West Hinder Buoy 51° 22½'N 2° 26'E at 2140 and patrol between S and T buoys Notices to Mariners 903/40 99 to (?133) QZS 60 (C. in C., Nore 1646/28 to VEGA, SHELDRAKE, SHEARWATER, MALLARD, WIDGEON)

Food & Water

As a temporary measure destroyers lying off beach should endeavour to ensure that the inshore motor boats and cutters are supplies with provisions of water and fuel. (N.O.I.C Dover 2135/28)

Brave

Proceed to beech off Braye, where troop concentration is now heaviest.(N.O.I.C. Dover, to MACKAY and HARVESTER 2037/28)

Patrols

All available M.T.B's from Nore and Dover

Commands/

HOME COMMANDS

Operation-Dynamo

Patrols, Contd.

Commands are to be made available for patrol tonight 28/29 May as ordered by C. in C., Nore (A.C.N.S. (H) 1303/28) Orders for patrol to guard evacuating vessels (C. in C., Nore 1524/28 to F.O.I.C. Harwich, Dover)

Train ferries to be sent

2 train ferries are to proceed to Dover as soon as ready to operate under orders of V.A. Dover (C. in C., Nore 1247/28 to F.O.I.C. Harwich) Nos 2 and 3 sailed 1423 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1436/28)

Hospital Ship not arrived

Hospital ship not yet arrived (Dunkirk W/T 1510/28)

Motor Boats

Adty. 2035/27 Utmost endeavour should be made to hasten despatch of motor boats to Dover (D.O.D. (H) 1635/28)

Braye

Need for boats and motor launches at Braye when further 25,000 troops are expected. Much provisions also required for troops awaiting embarkation. (GRAFTON 2229/28)

Proceed to beach off Braye where troops concentration is now heaviest. (N.O.I/C Dover 2037/28 to MACKAY, HARVESTER)

Oil tanks at Dunkirk and Calais still burning. Dense cloud of smoke over both areas (Chatham H.Q. 2108/28. aircraft report)

Operation XD (E)

British demolitions at Dunkirk. 1. New Locks. 2. Tristram Locks, 3 Guillaume Lock. D.C's fitted or placed. (D.O.D.(H) 2146/28)

Operation Lyster

Intended to carry out operation against Ostend, naval forces sailing from Sheerness at 1400/29, expected time of arrival Ostend 0530/30. Guns of naval forces will have to engage enemy shore defences and continuous fighter protection from earliest daylight 30/5 until withdrawal of all forces well clear of the coast is therefor essential for the success of the operation request early information may be given as whether this can be provided. (V.C.N.S. 23/28)

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Lyster-Contd.

Ostend — Block ships appear to effectively block both channel and canal (aircraft report, Chatham Broadcast 2354/28)

Operations-Coast of France

Rouen — British tanker TORNUS to proceed Rouen to load maximum possible cargo aviation spirit on permitted drought, and then return to Havre to complete loading. (D.T.D., 22.4/28)

Dieppe — S.T.O. reports position unaltered. (BNLO Marceau, 2230/28)

Cherbourg — D.S.T.O. reports 0930/28 and 1730/28 No air raids, wharves and quays intact, port open, railway facilities intact, nothing further to report. (BNLO Marceau 0940/28, 1922/28)

Naval 12 pdr. Batteries for Calais Etc. — Admty. 2253/23, 12 pdr, guns and crews are not now required for service. [illegible], KELSO, TRENTINO should be unloaded and returned to their former service. (D.O.D. (H) 1656/28)

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

War Diary

28.5.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Dynamo
(Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk)

Today likely to be the most difficult day ever experienced by British Army. R.A.F. will make every effort to assist both Army and Navy (A.M. to Commands 0125/28)

Senior officers at beach to use discretion in ordering withdrawal. Strong fighter protection expected after dawn. (N.O.I.C. Dover to CAL - CUTTA, etc., 0142/28)

WORCESTER
MACKAY — Proceed with all despatch to meet and support vessels returning from evacuation near Dunkirk (N.O.I.C. Dover 0146/28)

SABRE — Expect arrive 0445 request berth to land wounded (SABRE to F.O.C. Dover 0405/28)

VIVACIOUS — Expect arrive Dover 0530 three hundred military and six cot cases on board (VIVACIOUS to N.O.I. C. Dover, 0413/28)

Dunkirk — Request air protection for embarkation now (S.N.O. Dunkirk to V.A. Dover by WAKEFUL 0430/28) S.N.O. requires all vessels alongside East Pier (WAKEFUL to F.O.C. Dover 0436/28)

Report on situation on beach (N.O.I.C. Dover to WAKEFUL 0444/28)

Shortage of Boats — Plenty troops, few boats. Conditions good alongside Dunkirk East Pier protected by smoke (WAKEFUL to V.A. Dover 0507/28)

WAKEFUL's 0436. Is it practicable to get any more destroyers into Dunkirk (N.O.I.C. Dover to S.N.O. Dunkirk 0515/28)

Am halfway back to Dover. Dunkirk is practicable with air protection. Four Destroyers were off beach delayed through lack of boats. (WAKEFUL to F.O.I.C. Dover 0600/28)

VEGA, WOLFHOUND, SABRE, WORCESTER, MACKAY, proceed alongside East Pier Dunkirk with all despatch. (V.A. Dover 0606/28)

ANTHONY — Proceed with all despatch to meet and support vessels evacuating B.E.F. from Dunkirk (V.A. Dover to ANTHONY 0626/28)

Hospital Ship — Please sent Hospital Ship and signal Time of Arrival (S.N.O. Dunkirk to Dover 0700/28)

La Panne
Evacuation completed — Expect arrive Sheerness 1045/28 with about seven hundred Troops- Evacuation of La Panne completed (CALCUTTA to C. in C., Nore 0716/28)

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions Contd.

Naval Adviser Coast Defences

Admiral Sir Frederick Dryer.

Chatham

Re return of Lewis guns which formed part of AA defences of Chatham (C. in C., Portsmouth 1440/28)

Division of Shipping

Re M/TD 2021/40 telegram "Painstaker aggravated generally" has been issued. Co-operate (D.T.D. 1511/28 to all C's in C. and F.O.'s i/c on shore)

Coast Defence

Army providing M/T drivers for 12 pdr. and 3 pdr. batteries (Adty. 1536/28) Possibility of siting torpedo tubes at Lerwick (D. of L.D. 1728/28) Machine Gun Coy. of Land Defence Force of M.N.B.D.O. is to be brought forward for service. (D. of L.D. 2015/28)

Block Ships

Work of fitting out CAP NORTE as a troopship is not to be impeded. If still available when occasion arises abd sufficient notice is received she can be used as an outer block-ship. Meantime, alternative schemes to be prepared by which any ships available at the moment can be used as blockships. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1913/28)

Lerwick, Orkneys

Admty. 2230/26. Lerwick to be added to list of ports for which immobilisation of port facilities in the Orkneys, which are under maximum protection, except at Kirkwall, where an adequate scheme is now in force. (A.C.O.S., 1325/28)

Movements

YORK

Under present dispositions YORK is to work under C.S. 18. Should cruiser support become necessary in southern part of North Sea, I assume Admiralty will give C.S. 18 available intelligence and any necessary instructions. In the event of ships at Scapa proceeding to sea to co-operate I should expect 18 C.S. and YORK to be placed under my direct control should such circumstances make this desirable. (C. in C., H.F. to Admty., 2013/28)
YORK to keep steam at 1 hour's notice pending further orders from C.S.18. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2237/28)

Portsmouth Patrols

My 2117/22 Patrols will be established from 1200/29. Areas (C. in C., Portsmouth 1703/28)

Submarines

Positions 0600/29 (D.C., 1827/28)

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

It now seems probable that Belgians will cease fire at 4 p.m. 28th May Belgian time. (Adty. to C. in C., H.F. etc., 0256/28)

Precautions

Coast Defence

Naval guns being mounted at all prviously undefended ports from Sullom Voe to Poole. Dundee, Lowestoft and Aberdeen are now defended ports (D. of L.D. 1946/28) List of ports where naval guns are being mounted (A.C.N.S. (H) 1956/28)

Leith

Blocking (C. in C., Rosyth 1913/28)

Shetlands

Your 1859/23 Regretted existing resorces and demands will not permit of further heavy and light A/A guns and searchlights being sent to Shetlands at present. Concur in your re-disposition to cover Lerwick. In present circumstances, A/S craft should operate from Sullom Voe where some cover exists. (A.C.N.S. to A.C.O.S., 1729/28)

Yarmouth

Adty. 1244/23 Schemes prepared for Yarmouth Lowestoft. (C. in C., 1739/28)

N.I.D. 002102/40

See Operations Volume.

Harwich

Moving into new operations room in customs building near Parkeston Quay a.m. tomorrow (F.O., Harwich, 1715/28)

Guns

Your 1307/16, allocation of guns of damaged ships, approved in principle, but intended re allocation must be referred to Admty. for approval. (D. of L.D., 2014/28)

Belgian Shipping

Detain all Belgian shipping in allied ports on best pretext available but do not treat as enemy. Belgian ships at sea to be diverted to British or French port. (Adty. A. Message: 1137/28)

Immobilisation of Ports

Adty. 2230/26 Bridlington should be added (C. in C., Nore, 0952/28) Admty. 1244/23 Schemes have been prepared for Sheerness, Harwich, Humber and Dockyard Chatham (C. in C. Nore 1016/28)
Arrangements at Humber (F.O. Humber 0027/28) at Aberdeen, Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Dundee, Montrose (C. in C., Rosyth 1239/28) Lerwick (A.C.O.S. 1325/28) Yarmouth, Lowestoft, (C. in C., Nore 1737/28)

Dover

Naval U.P. Batteries now in MANELA to be landed for close AA defence of Dover Harbour and important targets (V.C.N.S. 1807/28)

War Diary

28.5.1940.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Norway

In the night 27/28; the place was entirely in the hands of the Allies by 2200/28. One battalion of Foreign Legion and one Norwegian battalion landed on S. shore of Ronbaks Fiord, covered by guns of Fleet, French artillery, and R.A.F. fighters. They encountered little opposition. H.M. ships have been heavily bombed, but remain in support. The enemy are counter-attacking. The submarine TRUANT left Harstad at 0400/28 for Rosyth.

In the Bodo area British troops were heavily attacked by enemy aircraft and withdrew from Pothus to a line thirty miles E. of Bodo.

Italy

Preparations for war short of avowed mobilisation continue. Sailings of all largest liners are postponed. The arming of many small craft continues. Italian cable cutting activity in the Mediterranean is suspected.

Casualties

The s.s. ABOUKIR, 694 tons, was torpedoed and sunk 50 miles N.E. of North Foreland at 0130/28.

The trawler THURINGIA was lost after an external explosion, believed mine, whilst on patrol off the Belgian Coast.

The drifter OCEAN REWARD was sunk with all hands while on examination service off Dover, after collision with s.s. ISLE OF THANET.

The paddle minesweeper BRIGHTON BELLE sank in the Downs after collision with a submerged wreck.

The THOMAS BARTLETT was lost through striking a mine when avoiding shell fire off Calais.

The s.s. ALCA was attacked by U-Boat at 0128, about 180 miles west of Ushant, no further report received.

War Diary

29.5.1940.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

MARIE JOSE — French. Reported sunk 20' S of Finisterre at 0530/29 (Consul Vigo 1056/29)

TELENA — British Trawler Torpedoed at 0600 in 42.25' N.09.03'W On fire and being towed to shalley water by Spanish Trawlers (C.I.C. 30 May)(Consul Vigo 1056/29, 33 of crew reported landed alive 3 died) Consul Vigo 11 15/29) Fisherman saw German submarine (N.A. Madrid 2132/29) Now at Ria Aldan fire practically extinguished by Spanish Navy, had list to port. 22 Survivors landed in shading 4 British unhurt, 3 British and 15 chinese wounded, 3 British dead. (N.A. Madrid 1649/30)

Passenger Transport — Mined and sunk off Dunkirk, see Evacuation of B.E.F.

URUGUAY (?) — Argentine, Reported to have been sunk 2000/29 43.40'N 12.10'W (290° C Finisterre 140 miles) by explosive charge placed on board by U-Boat (I.C. 0466/40) sunk evening 27/5 probably by same submarine as TELENA survivors at Corunna (N.A. Madrid 1649/30) 23.40'N 12.16'W 2000/27. 13 of crew saved, 12 missing (Whyatt. Corunna 2200/29)

Submarines Reported

0717 — Enemy Unit probably U-Boat between Orkneys and Norway. Position indefinite. (Admty. to C.in C., H.F. 1010/29)

1321 — One submarine 225° one mile from 51.19'N 02.07'E (? To Dover W/T my 1321, read 01. 53'E (PANGBOURNE to Dover 1415/29) 1321/29)

1515 — Periscope sighted 51.21'N 02.16'E (BLYSKAWica to V.A. Dover VEGA, SHELDRAKE hunt (C. in C., Nore 1605/29)

1649 — Suspected U-Boat reported 53.59'N 0.16'E (C. in C., Nore to FURY 1649/29)

1730 — District Inspector R.U.C. reliably informed that three or four U-Boats lie repairing in Ringabelva Bay a little below Queenstown Harbour. Graded A 2 (N.O.I.C. Belfast to Admty. 1730/29)

1530 — Enemy submarine which dived reported at 49.24'N. 08.36'W (C. inC. W.A. to ships area B. 1951/29) (I.C. 0466/40 gives position 49.24'N 7. 24'W)

War Diary

29.5.1940.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1620 Following received from H.M. Trawler CONTROLLER suspect enemy submarines in War Channel running past N.E. by N. half N in position 53 degrees 59' North. 9 degrees 16' East. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1635/29)

Submarines Attacked

0707 Attacking submarine position 51.22'N. 02. 40'E (VEGA)

1530 Aircraft presumably bombed U-Boat sighted at 49.24'N 7.24'W. (C.I.C. 30th May)

1500 French Patro vessel CAP SAGUET attacked U-Boat on surface 197° Finisterre 48' No result. 42.6'N 9.34'W (C.in C., W.A. 1149/30)

Following received begins:- Contact at least one submarine and two T.B's at commencement of patrol at 0030 until was attacked by torpedoes and machine gun fire in action until about 0200 enemy was driven off by depth charges and gun-fire hampered by darkness and low visibility until to ascertain result of engagement action suddenly stopped unit zig zagged westward awaiting daylight. 0305 ends. (C. In C., Nore. 0607/29)

FOREIGN STATIONS

LIVERPOOL — To join Mediterrenean Station. If so, propose to sail SYDNEY 1/6 for Aden (C. in C. Med. 1025/29)

Mediterranean.

Expedition contemplated. — My 1922, 28, State of Italian fighting forces combined with requisitioning of ships and numerous reports received lend weight to opinion previously expressed that an expedition is contemplated.
Re final sentence in my 1114/24 Yugo Slavia must not be excluded. Italian CONTE DI SAVOIA reported to have left New York 25/5 due 2/6 Genoa. Preparations for War continue.
(N.A. Rome 1301/29)

East Indies.

West African and Indian Troop Convoys. — D. of ST 1035/27 and Adty. 2300/27. Proposed route. Suggest convoy from Bombay be known as B.C. and that from Cape Town as C.M. (C. in C. E.I. 1028 Z/29)

CALEDON — Unless ATHELMERE ready sail in few hours she to be held and BULLMOUTH sailed with CALEDON. Despatch necessary. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C. East Indies 2013/29)

Italian sailings suspended. — It is learnt from Mombasa that future sailings of all Italian ships have been suspended (S.O.I. Colombo to D.N.I. 01332/29)

America and West Indies.

Navigation lights. — Adty./1072/15 In view of message B.A. and desirability of reducing risk for Bermuda convoys propose that all westbound British Merchant Ships show dim navigational light when west of 025° West and North of 032° North. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1151/29).

KONIGSBERG — 6466 G.T. sailed from Para, Brazil 28 May. Description circulated. (O.I.C. 30 May)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Completion dates.

OTTAWA 10/6. ASSINIBOINE 5/6. Intend to dock SAGUENAY when both the above are ready for sea (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1627/29)

North Atlantic.

Invasion of Ireland.

Thought possible a German seaborne expedition to invade Ireland may be prepared at Vigo. Please takes steps to confirm or deny. French Admty. asked to maintain a special watch off Vigo. (D.N.I. to N.A., Madrid, 2010/29)

S/M positions.

In area B. at 0600/30 (S.5. to Adty. 1800/29)

French positions.

Convoys and Patrols at 1200/29 (D.C. to C. in C. W.A., 0117/29)

South Atlantic.

Banana.

Re establishing observation post and extinguishing lights (C.G. Leopoldsville 1541/29)

BRIDGWATER

Re visit to Boma to consult re. defence of Lower Congo. (Leopoldsville 1508/29)

Italian sailings.

Italian Line agents have informed that no further Italian ships will sail for S. Africa after EDDA due Cape Town 20/6 and PIAVE 6/7. (S.O.(I) Cape Town 1635/29)

Mediterrenean.

Italian War Plans.

Ambassador in Rome reports all preparations made by Italy for attack 5th June on Corsica, Malta and Tunis. Parachutists to participate and foreign residents in Egypt, Tunis and Corsica to assist. Landing on Turkish coast from Rhodes also envisaged. Graded D.3. Slight indications exist of overseas expedition being prepared in Italy but no details available. (D.N.I. to C. in C. Med. 0118/29)

Reliably reported Italian Consul has instructions to prepare to return to Italy. He has been seen burning documents (S.O. I. Malta to Ady. 1051/29)

Cable cutting.

Adty. 1611 'Information that satisfies me that one vessel interferes with our cables is Spanish ESPERANZA Wooden Auxiliary Trawler believed to be in Vigo. She generally operated in territorial waters. Submit French be asked to obliterate her quietly at first opportunity. (N.A. Madrid 1950/29)

Special care is to be taken to give Italy no possible excuse for claiming that neutrality of Greek territorial waters is not being respected. (Capt. (S) 1, 1451/29 to PARTHIAN, PANDORA).

War Diary.

29.5.40.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

CAIRO	(Damaged 25/5) Only one 4 inch mounting effective in A/A fire. (CAIRO 1516/29)
JAGUAR	in tow of tug unable to steam, now proceeding to Dover. GALLANT and GRENADE also damaged by bombs. (C. in C. Nore 1813/29) Particulars of A/C attack and damage 29/5. (JAGUAR 0732/30.) Position in Nieu Port Bank Buoy. Request fighter escort (D.20 1800/29).
GRACIE FIELDS	Undergot. Charter. bombed 51° 14' N. 2° 40' E. Not making water. Requires tug. Transferring troops to other vessels. (SHIKARI 2115/29) Making water fast (GRACIE FIELDS Recd. 2053/29)
GRENADE GALVI CRUSTED EAGLE WAVERLEY	Bombed and sunk off Dunkirk 23/5(V.A. Dover 0230/30 VANOC 1736/29)
SCHELDE BEL. PRINCESS	Sunk in collision off Dunkirk 23/5 (V.A. Dover 0230/30)
BIDEFORD GREYHOUND WAVERLEY JAGUAR INTREPID SALADIN GRACIE FIELDS POLLY JOHNSON	Damaged by bombs off Dunkirk 23/5 BIDEFORD severely (V.A. Dover 0230/30)
JOHN GAYLORD	Missing during operations off Dunkirk 23/5. (V.A. Dover 0230/30)
GREYHOUND	Badly damaged near mine. Am attempting to steam to H. Goodwind. Towing essential. Extent of damage not known. Many casualties among crew and soldiers on board. (GREYHOUND 1658/29) HEREWARD taking her in tow. (HEREWARD 1693/29) Expect to arrive Dover 0001/30 (HEREWARD 2233/29)

War Diary.

29.5.40.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

WAKEFUL	Torpedoed and sunk 29/5 during operations Dynamo (V.A. Dover 0230/30) Re destruction of asdic sets. (C. in C. Nore 2157/29) Many refugees military and R.A.F. on board. Hit by at least 2 torpedoes which tore ship in half, sank in little over minute. Submarine surfaced and opened fire with machine guns on people in water, including women and children (Report by 2 R.A.F. W/T operators. Reed. by phone 1845/29. D.D.I.C. and C. in C. Nore still consider it likely that ship was sunk by M.T.B.)
GRAFTON	Torpedoed during Operation Dynamo 29/5. Abandoned sinking. Have taken off personnel (IVANHOE to F.O.C. Dover 0525/29) Torpedoed by M.T.B. (IVANHOE to N.O.I.C. 0635/29) Re destruction of Asdic sets (C. in C. Nore 2157/29)
MONTROSE M.V. RUJA	Damaged in collision with a tug near No. 2 buoy. with engine defects anchored North of Goodwin Fork. LADY BRASSEY left at 0150 to assit both (V.A. Dover 0224/29)
	Am grounded in Zuydcoote at low water (MACKAY 0016/29).
GRENADE CALVI CRESTED EAGLE WAVERLEY	Bombed and sunk off Dunkirk 29/5(V.A. Dover 0230/30 VERITY 1736/29)
COMFORT GIRL PAMELA	Sunk in collision off Dunkirk 29/5 (V.A. Dover 0230/30)
BIDEFORD GREYHOUND GALLANT JAGUAR INTREPID SALADIN GRACIE FIELDS POLLY JOHNSON	Damaged by bombs off Dunkirk 29/5 BIDEFORD severely (V.A. Dover 0230/30)
JOHN CATTLING	Missing during operations off Dunkirk 29/5. (V.A. Dover 0230/30)
GREYHOUND	Badly damaged near miss. Am attempting to steam to N. Goodwind. Docking essential. Extent of damage not known. Many casualties among crew and soldiers on board. (GREYHOUND 1658/29) BLYSKAWICA taking her in tow. (BLYSKAWICA 1859/29) Expect to arrive Dover 0001/30 (BLYSKAWICA 2232/29)

War Diary

29.5. 1940.
Wednesday.

Home Commands

Enemy Intelligence

2 M.T.B.'s — Attacked no apparent damage my position 51. 56'N 3.30'E (Aircraft 0220/29)

3 M.T.B.'s — Course 260° speed 20 knots my position 52.50'N 4.30'E)Aircraft 0444/29)

2 T.B.'s — See submarines attacked.

Destroyer — With 2 funnels in harbour at Ijmuiden.

4 ? 4 M.T.B.'s 1 M.V. — 52.45'N 1.47'E course 360° 1225 (Aircraft reports Chatham. 1638/29)

1 M.V. 1000 tons & 3 small auxiliary vessels — At Texel about 1450, strong A/A fire, plane damaged (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1750/29)

3 M.V's about 5000 tons. 12-15 Auxiliary vessels, probably M.V's — Reported by aircraft at the Helder 0930/29 (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1257/29 At 1330/29. However aircraft reported no ships at the Helder. (I.C. 0466/40)

Ships off Bergen — See Air

Miscellaneous

Military personnel sailings from Cherbourg to Southampton arranged for 30/5 and 31/5, ships crossing by night. If Southampton is closed ships should be diverted to Weymouth. Crossings shouls not be suspended due to absence of escorts. (D.O.D (H) 1807/1807/29)

M.T.B.'s building for Norway — Re taking over (Admty. 1627/29)

WEATHER

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Light Variable	Moderate to poor fog patches	Visi.Improving
Channel	S.W. to W. Light	Good to very good.	Similar
Western Approaches	N.W. Moderate	Very good	Wind backing to Freshening
No reports received for Folkg. Propable weather:-			
Horns Reef	Light Variable	Moderate to Good	Similar
W. Coast Norway	Southerly moderate	Moderate to good.	Similar
Belgian Coast	S.W. light to moderate	Moderate	Wind veering visibility improving to very good.

War Diary

29.5. 1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Aircraft Carriers

ARK ROYAL — Leave Scapa 0800/31 with GLORIOUS, Fly on 803 Sqdn. after leaving. Arrive Bodo area a.m./2 June (V.A.A. 1231/29)

Mining

Magnetic mines have been exploded off the Tyne, Dover and Moray Firth.

Invergordon. — Invergordon is still closed. (D.C. 0806/29)

Aircraft dropped three magnetic mines about 110° South Foreland (BLYSKAWICA to F.O. Dover 2346/29) It would appear that further magnetic mines were laid by enemy aircraft off the South Foreland during the night.

Tjeldsundet Channel is closed to traffic by suspected mining (R.A. Narvik 1124/29)

3 mines reported dropped in searched channel N.W. of Ostend. (C.I.C. 30 May)

Shipping

Convoys — Positions (D.C., 1839/29)

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT — Now arriving Galway 1/6 (Hd. of M 2016/29) of utmost importance she should proceed without interference. (C. in C., W.A. 0910/29)

Belgian Ships — In Home Waters may proceed to any port in France or U.K. armed guards should be dispensed with unless master or other members of crew suspected.)M. 0003/29)

Air.

Enemy Air activity.

ITY.	Help fighters (VERITY 1800/29.)
BRE	Help Dunkirk (SABRE No. T.O.O. Received 1846.)
RACIE FIELDS.	Hit by bomb 3 miles West Middle Kerke buoy (GRACIE FIELDS 1830/29) Not making water. Requires tug. Transferring troops to other vessels. (SHIKARI to F.O.I.C. Dover 2115/29)
SHIKARI.	Attacked (SHIKARI 2035/29.)

Air.

British air activity.

At least 2 bombs on ship moored outside Bergen harbour (Donibristle received. 1756/29) sighted by aircraft 1300/29 (Donibristle 1645/29). Confirmed reselts of Wednesday's air fighting, 77 German aircraft shot down, our losses 16. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 0207/30.)

Enemy air activity.

KING ORRY.	Bombed alongside at Dunkirk. No sign of military (Received. 1927. N. Foreland Radio 2030/29.)
GRAFTON.	Enemy bombing Bray. (GRAFTON 0010/29.)
PAXTON BOY READY.	H.M. Drifters damaged by enemy aircrafts and beached near Dunkirk. No casualties. (V.A. Dover 6513/29.)
VEGA	Help VXWY 2433 (VEGA 0855/29)
GRENADE	Help enemy aircrafts bombing Dunkirk (GRENADE 1153/29) 20 enemy aircrafts bombing Dunkirk GRENADE 1205/29) I'm being heavily bombed. Have seen no shore batteries (GRENADE 1217/29).
GALLANT	Enemy aircrafts bombing VXWY 0410 (GALLANT 1205/29)
KILLARNEY.	Bombed ar Dunkirk 1106 (N. Foreland Radio received 1235/29.)
D 20.	Attacked at La Panne (D 20 1254/29)
WORCESTERSHIRE.	Attacked ar Dunkirk (WORCESTERSHIRE 1255/29).
Preparations to attack U.K.	Information indicates 3 bomber Gruppen standing by for operations. Objective may be S.E. and S. coast ports (AirMinistry 1130/29.) On 28/5 and a.m./29 bomber reconnaissance aircrafts operated as far as Portsmouth, preparatory to intended attack on aerodromes and harbours on S.E. coast Air Ministry 1840/29.)
Bray.	Enemy aircraft's bombing off Bray (MALCOLM 1255/29 1545/29, 1551/29) Help MALCOLM 1552/29) (Capt. D 20 1657/29, 1716/29, 1552/29.)
Dunkirk.	Heavy bombing (MALCOLM 1257/29, 1714/29, GRENADE 1559/29, ICARUS 1919/29, VERITY 1949/29 Fighters required (ALBURY 1955/29).
CODRINGTON.	Help Dunkirk (CODRINGTON 1258/29)
SUTTON.	Bombed (SUTTON 1545/29) arill bombed La Panne Roads (SUTTON 1555/29).
La Panne.	Bombed (MALCOLM 1545/29)
ANTHONY.	Bombed help VXST 1235 (ANTHONY 1555/29) Bombed VXTS 2282 (ANTHONY 1645/29).
LOCH GARRY.	Bombed West Dyck Buoy 1618 GMT (W. Foreland Radio 1725/29.)

War Diary

29.5.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Norway

Re-presentation of survey regarding a certain operation (1st S.L. 2308/28)

Tjeldsundet is closed to traffic owing to mines. (R.A. Narvik 1124/29)

Hospital Ship to Sail

Hospital Ship ATLANTIC to be sailed for Harstad as soon as possible (D.O.D. (H) to F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2137/29)

Request sail MARINA for Harstad as soon as ready. MARINA is taking place of CYCLOPS (D.O.D.H. to A.C.O.S. 1730/29)

Narvik Captured

Entirely in hands of Allies by 2200/28 Norwegian and French battalions capturing town. (D.N.I. 1939/29)

Submarines

7th S/M.F.

Following Dutch submarines are now at Portsmouth. O.9 O.10 O.13 O21 O 22 O 23 O 24. Intend they be known as Seventh Submarine Flotilla as from 1/6.

Intend that Dutch Torpedo boats Z.6 and Z.8 also at Portsmouth should form part of 7th S/M F. Flotilla will be under command of Commander Hellingman of Netherlands Navy and will work in close co-operation with fifth S/M.F. and under general direction of Captain S. 5. and will normally be based at Portsmouth and Portland. Fifth and Seventh Flotillas do not form part of Home Fleet and in consequence S. 5 and S 7 are not included in the address Captains (S) Home Fleet. (V.A.S., 2114/29)

Submarines

Positions 0600/30 (V.A.(S) 1904/29, D.C 2302/29

Submarines operating in Channel will be addressed as 5th S/M Flotilla (Capt. (S) 5 1551/29)

War Diary

29.5.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

D.F. Lyster- Contd.

Fighting Protection Impossible

Regret unable to provide fighter protection for operation Lister 30/5 Air. Min 1930/29)

PACIFICO torpedoed at anchor off N.W. Shingles Beacon. To be towed back to harbour. Operation continues (WOLSEY 1938/29, C. in C. Nore 2251/29)

Cancel Operation D.F.

Cancel operation D.F. Destroyers to re-join V.A. Dover, (Admty. to S.O. Force D 1938/29)

375 Operation D Q (? D F) cancelled by Admiralty. S.O. force D. is to (corrupt groups) CAROLINE MOLLER MARTIS PACIFICO and CORVETTES (? before sailing) and instruct them to return to Sheerness at daylight. Destroyers return to Dover. M.T.Bs. return to Harwich. Acknowledge. (C. in C. Nore 1944/29 to Force D, WOLSEY)

French Coast

Le Havre

Condition: no mines exploded, shipping moving freely. Informed by Col. Pinder C.C. the Port, that four A/A guns have now arrived, therefore consider sweeping operations may now be started with safety but better if sweepers had escort. No reason why port should not now be opened. Vessel of 12' draft may enter at any time. (B.N.L.O., Marseau, 0150/29)

Dutch Coast

Holder

Entrance appears to be blocked by half submerged M.V. leaving only narrow channel (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1237/29)

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

Impossible to embark more troops at present

Continuous bombing for 1½ hours One destroyer sinking, one transport with troops on board damaged. No damage to pier. Impossible at present to embark more troops. 'SABRE 1825/29)

Dunkirk

Can you confirm harbour is blocked (Dover W/T to HMBS 2057/29)

Thames Barges being sent

20 Thames barges in tow are being sent. Can they usefully be used as pier for loading troops at point on beach or do you consider they would be more usefully employed for ferrying troops. Report as soon as possible. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1456/29

Operation Lyster

Air Protection are certain

Your 2356/28 In view of heavy fighter commitments 29/5 in connection with evacuations and uncertainty as to time required to complete evacuations am unable to give any undertaking regarding operation Lyster until evening 29/5 when matter will be reviewed in light of situation at that time. (Air Min. 0105/29 to Adty.)

Force D. (MARTIS, PACIFICO, CAROLINE MOLLER, 3 destroyers, 3 corvettes, 2 M.T.B.s may be required to sail for a operation 29/5, (D.O.D. (H) 0006/29)

Adty. 0006/29. Operation will take place Objective. Arrangements (D.O.D.(H) 1018/29)

Force D formed as follows:- WOLSEY, VIMY, VIVACIOUS, MALLARD, WIDGEON, SHEARWATER, PACIFICO, MARTIS, CAROLINE MOLLER, 2 M.T.Bs S.O. in WOLSEY (D.O.D. (H) 1018/29)

My 1018/29 Force D is due to arrive at destination 0500/30 (D.O.D. (H) 1736/29)

MALLARD, WIDGEON, SHEARWATER R.V. with Force D at N. Goodwin Lt.V. at 2030/29 for modified operations DF (C. in C. Nore., 1226/29)

On completion of operation D.Q. destroyers are to proceed as directed by V.A. Dover to assist in evacuation (V.C.N.S. 1608/29)

War Diary

29.5.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation Contd.

French Ships — To avoid possible incidents on beaches suggest all beaches are informed immediately that French ships evacuating are proceeding to Dunkirk. (V.A. 2314/29 to S.N.O. Dunkirk, HOME)

Fighters Essential — Fighters essential. Continuous bombing Capt. D 20 1707/29 1812/29)

Embarkation taking place from Dunkirk — Have sent JAVELIN and three Destroyers into Dunkirk landing place S.N.O. Other soldier marching to Dunkirk as boat work on beach very slow (Capt. D 16th D.F. to LEDA (?) 0531/29)

Fighters to be maintained — Special task for 30/5 is to provide maximum cover for concentration of B.E.F. Dunkirk area. Periods without fighter cover should be kept to minimum (Air Min. to Fighter Command 2315/29)

Vessels carrying troops not to stop to pick up survivors from ships sunk but are to inform other near ships (NCI.C Diver 0806/29)

Hospital Ships asked for — Army now ask for four hospital ships. You will have to continue : these
V .O.C. Dover.
1

Situation 1822/29 — Naval shipping plan .... approaching maximum efficiency. Subject to weather and reasonable immunity enemy action. expect lift about 16,000 Dunkirk and 15,000 from Beaches. Surf has subsided and beaches being worked today at reduced rate. Total arrivals during 12 hours to noon 29th are 13,711. Total since start of plan to 1600/29 is 39,000 disembarked and 7,500 en route for home, or 46,500 in all. (General Lloyd, Dover to V.O. 1822/29)

Admty. 1956/28. Report number and type of craft required stating names of any available locally and whether local manning possible (D. of L.D. to C. in C. 2330/29)

HOME COMMANDS

Orders for the night

Evacuation of British Troops to continue at maximum speed during night. If adequate supply of Hospital ships cannot be maintained to Dunkirk East Pier Destroyers will be sent there as well. All other craft except Hospital Carriers to embark from Beach which is extended from one mile east of Dunkirk to one mile east of La Panne. Whole length is divided into three equal portions referred to as La Panne Bray Mole from east to west with a mile gap between each port. La Panne and Bray have troops concentrations pointing to each end and in the middle. Mole on each end. These points should be tended by inshore craft. Pass this message by visual signalling to ships not equipped wireless as opportunity offers. Destroyers at Dunkirk pass to S.N.O. Dunkirk (V.A. Dover 1907/29)

Small Craft

Investigate urgently provision of additional small craft which can be made available within 48 hours from all parts in your command for operation Dynamo. (D.O.D. (H) 1115/29 to C. in C.s Portsmouth, Nore)

French Ships Needed

French troops beginning to arrive at Dunkirk and on beaches, but there are only 3 French destroyers and one French vessel to evacuate them. Impress on Admiral Darlan necessity for large number of destroyers, passenger ships and small craft. (1st S.L. 1636/29 to B.N.L.O. Marceau)

Route

Route to Dunkirk (F.O.I.C. Dover, 1331/29 1721/29)

SALADIN Damaged

Naval personnel and gear landed, few soldiers and wounded survivors picked up no more ammunition or boats left, am returning with VERITY and SALADIN who is damaged and can only do 15 knots. Heavy and continuous bombing of ships. (SABRE 2025/29)

Ships to take Troops from Destroyers

Intercept all personnel ships approaching Dunkirk and instruct them not to close harbour but to remain off Eastern beach t collect troops from ships (N.O.I.C. Dover 2126/29 to [illegible])

Requirements

In order to complete disembarkation L.C' or power craft in charge of N.O's, repa Naval beach parties imperative. ([illegible] 2130 2/29)

War Diary

29.5.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation-Contd.

R.A. Wake-Walker appointed S.N.O.

R.A. Wake-Walker is proceeding in BSK to RENEE to carry out duty of S.N.O. Dunkirk in charge of all evacuation arrangements (N.O.I.C. Dover 1943/29, Admty. 1763/29)

Destroyers not to stop to help ships in distress

During present operations on Belgian coast where many small craft are present destroyers are not to stop to render assistance to ships in distress (D.O.D (H) 1105/29)

Dunkirk bombed

Enemy aircraft bombing Dunkirk (GRANADE 1155/29, 1205/29)

Dunkirk heavily bombed at 1300, objectives troops and transports. Request fighter protection may be increased. Embarkation is being carried out normally now. (S.N.O. 1330/29)

Situation 1358

(S.N.O. Dunkirk 1358/29)

Belgian troops to be embarked

Belgian troops at La Panne to be allowed to embark in British ships, as we are using Belgian ships and crews for our own embarkation. (V.A.N.S. 1347/29, N.O.I.C. Dover, 1735/29)

Stick it a little longer. You alone can save our army. (V.A. Dover 1426/29 to Dover Force B.N.L.O. Dunkirk)

Fighters needed

My position Nieuport Bank Buoy. Request fighter protection (D. 20 1800/29)

Ships being sent by French

Your 1635/29. All small ships in Channel requisitioned by French. About 130 being sent to Dover (B.N.L.O. Marcoeun 1941/29)

My 1259. MOSQUITO to proceed to beach at Bray Dune 6 miles E. Dunkirk and LOCUST to beach at La Panne 9 miles E Dunkirk. Both ships to embark British troops to maximum capacity using own and inshore boats (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1901/29)

Giving positions where troops are on beaches (V.A. Dover 1907/29)

ANTHONY to proceed to evacuate troops. (N.O.I.C. Dover 2345/29)

Route for ships (N.O.I.C. Dover 1906/29)

War Diary.

29.5.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

More Boats required — Destroyers motor boats are inadequate to deal with numbers on beach. More boats urgently required. Weather now difficult for boat work (Capt. (D) 16 0423/29)

Surf on beaches — Owing to surf on beach most important move as many troops as possible from La Panne and Bray to Dunkirk (V.A. Dover 0431/29 to S.N.O.Denibristle)

Fighters required — No enemy interference at present. Embarking 2000 per hour. This can be kept up provided supply of transports is maintained. Swell prevents use of beach (? passage) to Dunkirk. Any air attack would be disastrous. Maximum fighter protection essential. Passenger transport not loaded mined and sunk about 2 miles E of Dunkirk pier light (S.N.O. Dunkirk. 0709/29)

HUBE to be H.Q. of S.N.O. — Tell Capt. Bush in M.T.B. 68 to use H.M.S. HUBE as his H.Q. frequent reports are necessary as to situation and requirements from beach. (V.A. Dover, 0832/29 to HUBE)

Food and water to be sent — Food and water should be sent to Dunkirk as soon as possible, also a staid guard for control of traffic. Army are quite unable to help or organise any thing. Keep on sending ships. Cannot West channel be used. Good Medical Officer with staff required. Army unable to provide. (S.N.O. Dunkirk 0930/29)

20 Thames barges in tow of 5 tugs expected at Ramsgate 1780/29. For consideration that these might be used as piers (V.C.N.S. 1255/29 to V.A. Dover)

Please secure an M.T.B. now (S.N.O. Dunkirk 1232/29 to F.O.I/C Dover)

Aircraft called for — Enemy troops reported N.E. of Nieuport. Request destroy concentrations on roads. N.E. of town. Attack not to be made west of railway coast Nieuport Dix made (C. in C., Liason Officer Dover 1100/29)

Enemy Shelling — S.N.O. Dunkirk state enemy shelling pier with shore batteries from S.E. request bombers to counter-vital (IVANHOE 1105/29)

War Diary

29.5.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND-
ANTONIA

REVENGE and escort to R.V. with them. position, route, (N.O.I/C Greenock 1731/29)

My 1949 Fleet fogbound. (C.in C., H.F. 2142/29)

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk

Situation 0940

3 Transports and 12 auxiliaries in Docks 52.56'N 4.47'E lorries driving up to transports, Auxiliaries prbably E/S (aircraft 220 Sqdn. 0940/29)

S.S. CLEERS shelled

SS CLEARS under shell fire 0325 from Dunkirk Roads passing B W Buoy (N. Foreland Radio No 7000 Recd. 0435/29)

More boats required

Essential more conveyance boats are sent immediately. only 4000 men evacuated since 1800 and there are 32 (Corrupt Group) waiting on beach with more arriving here (Corrupt Group) (Brigadier Raikeskern 0130/29 to N.O.I.C. Dover)

3rd Corps. B.E.F. to be embarked

3rd Corps B.E.F. and C. in C., are now at La Panne. Make every endeavour to concentrate all destroyers and light craft in neighbourhood with object of embarking this force as soon as possible. (V.A. Dover 0127/29 to CALCUTTA)

Embarkation too slow

Brigadier General in charge states present rate of embarkation from shore to ship quite inadequate. Beach bombed throughout the day (LEDA 0320/29)

Ships to land beach parties

S.O's of groups at beaches are to detail ships to land adequate beach parties to assist troops to embark. Men are not to be left behind by their ships but to be relieved as necessary when ships sail. (F.O.I.C. Dover 0255/29 to Destroyers, minesweepers)

War Diary

29.5.1940
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Re Leith workmen	Hd. of M. 1734/29 to C. in C., Rosyth re his 1616/26.
Coast batteries	Organisations of batteries manned by R.N. and R.M. personnel (D of L.D. 1317/29)
Patrol off Wick	Admty. 1956/28 take necessary action for establishment of patrol off Wick (C. in C., Rosyth 1309/29 to A.C.C.S.)
~~Leith~~ Inchkeith torpedo tubing	Impracticable to fit fixed shore torpedo tubes on ~~Leith~~ Inchkeith Refitting 6 trawlers or drifters (C. in C., Rosyth 1103/29)
Continuing German M.T.B. Attack	Admty. 1157/29. Am much concerned at difficulty of countering German M.T.B's. our destroyers prove too big and are not effective. Our M.T.B's are small and too few. Enemy M.T.B's can use any Dutch Port Only effective counter appears to be heavy bombing attack after locating them in Harbour. (C. in C. Nore, 1424/29)
Submarine Patrol off Dingle Bay	Admty. direct that submarine patrol is to be established forthwith off Dingle Bay to destroy U-Boats and stop and examine outside Irish Territorial waters any M.V's making for Dingle Bay. (V.A.(S) 2207/29)
Foreigners	Request that all foreigners now being evacuated from France may be landed at approved ports as security control is only organized at these ports. (HOWAR London, 2200/29)
Air attack expected	Reliable information indicates that air attacks on British aerodromes and ports is imminent. Most likely objectives are ports and aerodromes in S.E. and South coasts. (Air Min. 1430/29)
	Information indicates three Bomber Gruppen standing by for operations. Objective may be South east and south coast ports. (Air Min) (1130/29)
	Reliable information received that bomber attack on S.E. ports and aerodromes by a Geschwader of D.O. 17's and H.E. 111's was laid on for today. Understand that attack postponed owing to bad weather in Germany. (Air Min. 1610/29)

War Diary

29.5.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Havre

A/A guns have arrived and sweeping may now be started with safety. No reason why the port should not now be opened.

Dunkirk
Calais

Oil tanks burning fiercely last night.

Air

Besides the air protection for the evacuation of the B.E.F. air attachment the back areas have been maintained. M.T.B.'s were attacked by our aircraft off the Dutch coast last night, without result. During the day our aircraft destroyed 77 German aircraft with the loss of 16 of our own.

Norway

On the evening of 28th May the Germans were driven out of Narvik for 2 miles and 200 to 300 prisoners taken.

Italy

Count Ciano informed our Ambassador that Italy's entry into the war is certain but he has suggested no date. Contraband and clearing negotiations have been broken off by direct order of Mussolini who was incensed at prominence given to their expected success in British press. Mussolini is unwilling to enter into discussions of any sort with the Allies. Situation appears graver than at any time hitherto.

United Kingdom

It is believed that air attacks on British aerodromes and ports is imminent.

French

War Diary

29.5.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

North France Military Situation

The B.E.F. is withdrawing in the direction Dunkirk and the main bodies are North and West of Ypres in the area of Proven-Poperinghe- Ypres- Bixchoote. The rear Division is at Poperinghe; and regular Troops have taken over the defence of the Coruuna Line from Berges to Nieuport.

One German armoured Division has advanced to the East and reached a point South of Bergues, and two more are at Merville and Estaires respectively.

The French 1st Army were reported at 0330/29 to be on the line of the Lys about Armentieres, and contact is maintained between the French and the B.E.F.

Evacuation of the B.E.F.

During the forenoon 29th evacuation proceeded satisfactorarily with little interference from enemy aircraft though made difficult by a fresh S.W. wind.

Up to 2200 hours 28th 16,300 had landed in England, and 2,500 were estimated on passage At midnight 29th/30th 61,171 had been landed in England.

Evacuation id being made by 27 destroyers and every kind of small craft from Dunkirk and from the beaches East of Dunkirk; 7 destroyers embarked troops from the pier; others operated off the beaches.

Two destroyers and 4 corvettes are screening the operations on a line off Nieuport and 7 M.T.B's are patrolling a 20 mile line from Blankenberge to the North West.

Protection has been given to the operation by large numbers of fighter aircraft, and has been effective.

Naval ocsualties have been: WAKEFUL with 630 troops was torpedoed and sunk 0250 29th off Nieuport; GRAFTON was torpedoed in the same position at 0309. She had no troops on board; WINDSOR damaged by bomb yesterday; MACKAY aground East of Dunkirk; MONTROSE was in collision with a vessel towing small boats loaded with troops.

A number of merchant seamen at Dover refused to take their ships to sea for evacuation. They were replaced by Naval ratings from Chatham.

Dieppe

Two magnetic mines inside the pier heads and about 12 more outside. Port likely to be open soon. 3 steamers and six trawlers are sunk in the basins. The railway is undamaged.

War Diary. 30.5.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

0305 Enemy S/m North Hinder light buoy.
(ARGYLLSHIRE 0305/30).

1710/27 43°50' N. 10°40' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0802/30).

1728 2 suspected torpedo tracks 51°19' N. 1°39' E.
Trawler informed.
(ANTHONY 1728/30).

0800 U-Boat seen to surface and dived 0830
37°48'N. 25°51'W. (off South Coast San
Miguel) B.3. (I.C. 0467/40).
(Lisbon 1845/30).

1000/28 2 vessels, suspected U-Boats, off North
Coast of San Miguel, Azores. B.3.
(I.C. 0467/40). (Lisbon 1845/30).

Estimated dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1234/30).

S/ms. Attacked.

S/m. sighted on surface. Crash dived.
3 patterns dropped. Amend position
to 52°22' N. 2°1' E. Convoy proceeding.
Request instructions.
(WESTON 2300/30).

WITHERINGTON 0425 59°19' N. 6°25' W.
attacked doubtful contact. A.3.
(I.C. 0466/40).

War Diary. 30.5.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

ANTHONY — See S/ms. reported 1541 and 1728.

ULSTER PRINCE — Probably attacked by U-Boat in position 59°32' N. 6°23' W., but not hit. One heavy under-water explosion heard. Have attacked doubtful contact and am rejoining ULSTER PRINCE.
(WITHERINGTON 0420/30). (A.3) (I.C.0466/40).

ROCHESTER 23/5 — Attacked in 49°11' N. 8°45' W. at 0800/23 by U-Boat firing torpedo which leaves no track.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1224/30.)

CAMBRIAN Sunk. — Boom defence vessel mined and sunk 117°8.5 cables from Horse Sand Fort.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1736/30).

STANHALL — British 4831 tons. Explosion, sinking.
(STANHALL de G.K.U. Portishead 1725/30).
STANHALL reports sinking at 1825 due to explosion, probably torpedo, position probably within 150 miles S.W. of Land's End.
(C. in C. W.A. 1856/30).

2 French trawlers Sunk by U-Boat 28/5 and 29/5 respectively near 28/5, 29/5. — Finisterre.

Unknown ship, probably S.S. BRAZZA, 29/5. — Sunk in the same place 2000/29. Probably French S.S. BRAZZA (10,387 tons). (Cabinet War Room 272)
? was BRAZZA torpedoed off Vigo 0735/28.

S/ms. Reported.

0751 — D.F., unknown enemy unit 61°N., 2° W., unreliable fix, probably U-Boat. (D.D.I.C. 0833/30).

2210 — 52°17' N. 1°58' E. (R.A.(S) 2251/30, WESTON 2210/30).
See also S/ms. attacked.

1541 — Periscope sighted 51°18'N. 1°40' E. 110° 4 miles from North Goodwin. (BLYSKAWICA, 1541/30).
ANTHONY reported 2 suspected torpedo tracks 1728.

2230 — Off South Wold. (S.O.(S) Harwich 0410/31).

1207 — Unidentified crossing on No.12 loop at 1207. No ships available to search. (V.A. Dover 1305/30).

Your 1556/29 (attacked enemy S/m reported). Area within radius of 15 miles from reported position searched without result.
(ABERDEEN 1000/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

30.5.40.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Foreign Stations.

LUVSEE — Split reports she left Zelenika for Trieste 27/5. Another German ship arrived Zelenika 28/5.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 2011/30).

Italy. — [illegible] SS LUVSEE, Genoese carrier, presumably KIRADILA, reported (A.A.) Genoa, May 21. All negotiations with French and Germans on contraband control and economic questions have been broken off. General situation unchanged.
(N.A. Rome 1812/30).

6 ships to sail. — Up to 6 British or Norwegian ships now at Egyptian sto. ports waiting to leave for U.K. or South France ports direct may now sail.
(D.T.D. 2012/30 to C. in C. Med.)

Crete. — Re. destroyer which entered Candia Bay.
(PARTELLAS 2439 I/29, 0809/30).

American and West Indies.

Dakarre Harbin. — ship believed to be man of war, nationality unknown, passed north side of Grand Cayman Is. 1700 proceeding East to West. (Grand Cayman Is. 1340/30). Passed to C. in C. A.W.I. and S.O.(I) Jamaica by Adty. 1148/30.

Japan. — Italian. Galveston reports instructed by owners to remain at Port Arthur for present for political reasons.
(N.S.Hq. Ottawa 1527/30).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Minesweepers required. Can more minesweepers be provided for this station. Am very short of such craft and Italian mining campaign likely to be intense. Suitable local craft are practically non-existent. (C. in C. Med. 1231/30).

Italy. My 1301/29. Seaplane carrier, presumably MIRAGLIA, reported (A.A) Genoa, May 26. All negotiations with French and ourselves on contraband control and economic questions have been broken off. General situation unchanged. (N.A. Rome 1812/30).

6 ships to sail. Up to 6 British or Norwegian ships now at Egyptian etc. ports waiting to leave for U.K. or South France ports direct may now sail. (D.TD. 2012/30 to C. in C. Med.)

Crete. Re. destroyer which entered Candia Bay. (PARTHIAN 2339 Z/29, 0309/30).

America and West Indies.

Unknown Warship. Ship believed to be man of war, nationality unknown, passed north side of Grand Cayman Is. 1700 proceeding East to West. (Grand Cayman Is. 1840/30). Passed to C. in C. A.W.I. and S.O.(I) Jamaica by Adty. 1145/31.

FEDE. Italian. Galveston reports instructed by owners to remain at Port Arthur for present for political reasons. (N.S.Hq. Ottawa 1527/30).

War Diary. 30.5.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Patrols. Details of patrols established. Object is in event of war with Italy to intercept Italian merchant ships endeavouring to reach neutral ports, particularly Vigo and Lisbon. If war with Italy breaks out, Italian ships are to be sent to Gibraltar or Casablanca. Following French ships are co-operating under Admiral, West, MEDOC, TEMERAIRE II, under Admiral, Africa, surveying vessel SENTINELLE in Cadiz area and HARDI II in St. Vincent to Lisbon area. (F.O.C. N.A. 1222/30 to CORFU, MALOJA, CANTON, MONTCLARE).

French Forces. Positions 1300/30; Convoys and Patrols. (D.C. 0019/30).

Gibraltar Convoys. In view of the withdrawal of French Escort vessels from the Gibraltar Convoys, the following policy is approved as a temporary measure:

(a) C. in C. Western Approaches and F.O.C. North Atlantic are requested to arrange for all outward and inward bound convoys to be met, and escorted through their respective submarine zones, so far as their available forces permit.

(b) Convoys will proceed unescorted during the remainder of their voyage(s).

(A.C.N.S.(F) 1823/30 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A.).

Cables Cut. Madrid 1950/29. Reliability of information not known but cable and wireless manager here has no technical evidence to support suspicion that cables have been deliberately cut. It is unlikely that position of some breaks would have been selected for cutting owing to depth of water. Further report will be made on return British Cable ship GDFL (MIRROR) within next few days. In view of possible far-reaching consequences I consider action suggested would be most unwise. (F.O.C.N.A. 1656/30).

South Atlantic.

Routeing of Convoys. C. in C. E.I. 1028/Z/29. Concur with your paras. (I) and (II).
(C. in C. S.A. 1155/30).

Convoy CM. To sail from Capetown p.m./15/6. Rendezvous.
(C. in C. S.A. 1817/30).

War Diary

30.5.40.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Casualties during Operation Dynamo 30/5.

Sunk by bombs. KING ORRY, GRACIE FIELDS, previously reported damage.

Damaged by bombs. SABRE, ANTHONY, KELLETT (Slight).

In collision. SHARPSHOOTER.

Missing. MEDWAY QUEEN.
(V.A. Dover 0856/31).

ANTHONY. Aerial depth charged, proceeding reduced speed steering by engines.
(ANTHONY 2230/30).

JAGUAR Particulars of attack and damage on 29/5.
(JAGUAR 0732/30).

PRINCESS MAUD Returning to base, ship holed in engine room. 5 injured. (Recd. by N. Foreland Radio 1248 G.M.T.). O.K. for now (Recd. by N. Foreland Radio 1210 G.M.T.) Being shelled off Gravelines, sinking. (North Foreland 1200/30). Distress traffic ended. (N. Foreland Radio 1220/30).

HARVEST GLEANER H.M. Drifter, on passage Granton to Harwich, in collision with unknown trawler off Tyne.
(F.O. Tyne 1051/30).

BRAZEN Struck wreck, after boiler room flooded. Proceeding Humber for docking, 53°10' N., 1°18'W.
(BRAZEN 0345/30).

SOUTHAMPTON. Damage sustained during bombing attacks 25/5 to 28/5. Temporary repair satisfactory in calm water but unlikely to stand up to heavy seas or very high speed.
(S.O. 18 C.S. to R.A. Narvik 1731/30).

NORMANNIA Sunk while in tow 271° Dunkirk breakwater 4 miles, survivors in H.M.S. ROSS and MOSQUITO.
(MOSQUITO 0201/30).

S.S.WORTHTON Bombed, sunk, in Dunkirk about 2130/27.
(Interview with Master).

War Diary. 30.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Escape from Disabled Destroyers. Strongly recommend destroyers mess decks have at least one battleship size scuttle on each side. It is reported that many men were trapped on mess deck of AFRIDI. GRENADE had two such scuttles fitted privately and they saved many of the crew. (C. in C. Nore, 1801/30).

WEATHER.

	Wind.	Weather.	Visibility.
North Sea	Light variable	Extensive fog.	Poor generally.
Horns Reef	Light variable	Occasional rain. Local fog or mist.	Moderate to poor.
Channel	N.W to W. light	Fog or haze in E. Channel. Cloudy with occasional rain in West.	Moderate to poor.
Western Approaches.	S.W. light to moderate.	Occasional rain or drizzle.	Moderate.
Norwegian Coast.	Light and variable.	Fine to cloudy. Local fog in South.	Moderate to good.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

F.D. 15 — Position of laying 27/5 by RUBIS (S.10 1206/30)

a/c mining. — Four objects were dropped 1 mile N. of La Panne, and a/c sighted flying low to northward(West Deep) (I.C.0467/40)

4 magnetic mines were exploded 30/5 near South Goodwin L.V. (D.C.N.S. 271)

Enemy Intelligence.

Motor Boats. — Circling ship West Hinder Buoy (SANDOWN 0105/30)

1 M.T.B. 53° 18' N, 4° 51' E., course 045. (A/C 206 Sqdn. 1226/30, 1232/30)
1 M.T.B. 52:57' N. 4.47' E., (A/C 206 Sqdn. 1355/30)
2 M.T.B's 60.13' N. 5.11' E. at 1500 (D.C. 1840/30). (Donibristle 1845/30).

Norway. — Analysis of W/T traffic during past two days indicates movements of German small craft and M.T.B's from Heligoland Bight and northwards to the Norwegian coast (D.N.I., 2212/30)

Destroyer. — 1 destroyer bearing 030 distance 1 mile course 180 my position 61.56' N, 5.08' E. (A/C, 269 Sqdn., 1425/30) SEVERN and TRUANT informed (Admty. 1601/30) Ref. A/C report at 1425. Pilot now reports this ship as small and more likely an escort vessel (C. in C., Rosyth 1758/30).

M.V's. — 3 sighted about 1,000 tons each at 1215 in position 55.55' N., 7.45' E. Bombed by a/c, no hits. (Donibristle 1620/30, R.A.(S) 1821/30 to S/M's on patrol).

1 M.T.B.
4 M.V's. — 1325 1 M.T.B. at anchor and 2 small M.V's alongside Willemsoord Harbour. 2 small M.V's entering the harbour. (I.C.0467/40).

Auxiliary vessel. — 1640 Small naval auxiliary vessel at Y.muiden (I.C.0467/40).

HARVESTER. — Attacked by M.T.B. by torpedo off Zuydcoote. Missed. (HARVESTER 2316/30)

2 M.T.B's. — 1500 in 60° 13' N 5° 11' E. (Bergen area) (I.C.0467/40).

1 escort vessel. — 1425 in Nord Fjord (61° 36' N 5° 8' E (do)

3 M.V's. — 1215. About 1000 tons, 25 miles N.W. Blavaand Pt. (55° 55' N 7° 45' E) Course 310° (do)

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Enemy Air Activity.

Dunkirk	Enemy bombing (VIVACIOUS, 0514/30) (VANQUISHER 0527/30) Fighter A/C have been despatched (C. in C. Nore 0605/30. Air attack (VANQUISHER 1542/30).
	Air attack (R.A. Dover in HEBE, 1205/30) 1 a/c bombing La Panne, (HEBE 1218/30)
BLYSKAWICA	Bombed 51° 19' N 2° 5' E. (BLYSKAWICA 2015/30, 2021/30)
Calais	Enemy bombing off Calais (SCIMITAR 1535/30)
Braye	Help Braye (CODRINGTON 1815/30).
CODRINGTON	Attacked position 270 Dunkirk 8 (CODRINGTON 2125/30)
BLACKBURN ROVERS	Attacked, position 088 South Foreland 28 (BLACKBURN ROVERS 2200 (30)
WESTON	Bombed 52° 10' N, 1° 54' E (WESTON 2010/30)
La Panne	Bombed (HEBE 1218/30)
	1 a/c bombing (F.O. Dover Straits 1747/30)
	3 a/c attacking La Panne (F.O. Dover Straits 1806/30)
	5 a/c attacking La Panne (WORCESTERSHIRE 1904/30)
ANTHONY	Bombed VXDN 1512 (ANTHONY 2205/30)
BELLWYN	Intercept 1905 G.M.T., bombed 51:47 N. 02:47 E. (N. Foreland Radio no T00/30) Later reported to be safe and proceeding.
SABRE	Destroyer SABRE set on fire by air attack Dunkirk. (SABRE 1756/30)
North going (Arena) Convoy	was attacked in Thames Estuary about 2000/30
S.S. FULHAM FOUR	My 2023 (FULHAM FOUR hit and sinking) Trawler RIVER CLYDE standing by, ship appears to have stopped sinking. Am proceeding with convoy (WESTON 2035/30) 1584 tons,).
LORINA	British 1578 tons)
SPINEL	British 650 tons) sunk off Dunkirk
WORTHTOWN	British 868 tons) see casualties.
Reconnaissance.	Enemy a/c over Yarmouth 1010 and coast northward to Hull, etc., considered photographic reconnaissance. Fighters despatched to intercept (C. in C. Nore 1202/30)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations. Narvik

DEVONSHIRE	Admty. 1550/27 DEVONSHIRE to remain in Northern waters for a special mission. May I assume this special mission is separate and act accordingly? (F.O. Narvik, 1150/30)
CURLEW	Asking if R.D.F. equipment was destroyed beyond possibility of compromise. (D.S.D. to F.O. Narvik 1538/30)
VANOC	To proceed to Harstad. (R.A. Narvik 1600/30)
SOUTHAMPTON	Details of damage in bombing attacks 25/5 to 28/5 (S.O. 180.S. 1730/30)
Oil Supplies	Estimate 12,000 tons needed shortly. Request another oiler to meet possibility of further tanker casualties. (F.O. Narvik 2314/30)
VINDICTIVE	Having discharged troops, to return to Harstad as early as possible, not later than 2200/4/6. (F.O. Narvik 2140/30)
ATLANTIS	Hospital ship. Route to Harstad (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 2502/30)

War Diary

30.5.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

Small longshore motor fishing boats now being requisitioned through Ministry of Fisheries from Brixham to the Wash, to proceed Dover or Ramsgate which ever nearer. (D.S.V.P. 1659/30)

Small craft due Ramsgate, details. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1851/30)

Yachts

H.M. yachts CHRISTOBEL II, CALETA, AMULREE and GRALA sailed for Ramsgate, (Cdre. I/C Sheerness, 2030/30)

Naval Bombardment Needed

Following received from 2nd Corps. Request Navy shell Lombast Zyte village north of Nieuport, and observation position in Nieuport high lighthouse. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1925/30)

Coast of France

Cherbourg

Position at 1730 (from D.S.T.O) No air raids, wharves and quays intact, port open, rail facilities intact, about 5,000 British troops embarking for U.K. (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 1820/30)

Operations- QUIXOTE, QUENTIN

Operations Quixote and Quentin completed. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0910/30)

War Diary

30.5.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

Protective Patrols, Contd.

WIDGEON, SHELDRAKE to R.V. with VEGA and BLYSKAWICA at R Buoy, 51.20'N., 01.47'E at 2100 tonight. Patrol tug from there to (?) West Hinder Bucy.
Trawler 512 westward of R. Bucy and eastwards of West Hinder. Own motor torpedo boats between Ostend and Kwinte Bank Bucy (C. in C., Nore, 1749/30)

Situation

Despite intense bombardment and air attack, 4,000 troops have been embarked during last hour. Every possible effort will be made as I consider Dunkirk will be untenable by tomorrow Friday morning. Embarkation from beach will be continued until last moment but I depend upon large ships and destroyers at pier tonight. S.N.O. Dunkirk, 2025/30)

East Beach

Admty. 1423/30 to R.A. Dover straits. R.A. Dover Straits not on board JACKAL G.H.Q, Army Eastern Beach being shelled and evacuation there impracticable. Evacuation from Dunkirk proceeding. Harbour being shelled at intervals. Am returning to Dover with 1400 troops. Am ordering some small craft to Eastern Beach. Capt. (D) 19, 2130/30)

Boats Officers

All shore officers excepting Lt. Com. Ewing allocating to operation Dynamo in Admty. 0423/23 and subsequent amending signal have been ordered to proceed to Tilbury for allocation between 20 motor lifeboats and 100 pulling Lifeboats. (C. in C., Nore, 1559/30)

Navigation

Ships meeting in bad visibility should not hesitate to use sound signals and dimmed navigational lights to avoid collision, any additional risk of contact with enemy being accepted. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 1954/30)

Boats

25 Merchant Ship Motor Lifeboats and 46 rowing ditto in tow of six tugs leaving Tilbury from now till complete manned by Volunteers and Naval Ratings. On arrival Southend they will be routed immediately to Ramsgate where first tow should arrive about 0600 Friday. Two days fresh food and two days iron ration per man spare fuel and drinking water. (F.O.I.C. London. 1900/30)

Dutch Govt. have placed following motor boats now at Portsmouth at disposal of Admiralty. M. 73, M 74, and T.V. speed boat. Should be sent to Ramsgate forthwith. (D.O.D. (H) 1338/30)

War Diary

30.5.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

Tugs Refuse Duty

Crews of Tugs SUN VII and SUN X refuse to tow barges to Dunkirk. Please arrange for 2 new crews to be sent to Dover, crew consists of 11 men (V.A. Dover, 1511/30)

Policy

From interviews which British Officers have had with Admiral Abrail it appears he is not aware of Allied policy, particularly regarding the evacuation of British and French Armies now in vicinity of Dunkirk. Please inform Admiral Darlan that we feel it would help matters if this were done. (1st S.L. to B.N.L.O. Marseau, 1511/30)

Aliens

Your 2200/29 Admiralty appreciate request, but reject impossible to insure in present circumstances that foreigners are excluded from vessels evacuating personnel from France. Arrangements at landing ports described. (D. of L.D. to HOFAR, London, 1614/30)

Progress

Understand Admiral Wake-Walker is going ashore now. Navy have had W/T set ashore for past 2 days. This is in communication with V.A. Dover and messages can be re-transmitted to Wake-Walker. In addition, 60 naval signalmen are on beaches for visual from shore to ship. Total evacuations to date. (train departures from all ports):-

May 27	From 0600	3373	
" 28		13948	
" 29		38282	
" 30	to noon	16093	Total 71696

Navy are still making maximum effort, having allotted seven new destroyers today and providing 6 fresh destroyer crews to replace those exhausted. (Maj. Gen Lloyd to War Office, 1623/30)

F.O.'s Movements

Embarked in WORCESTER, WINDSOR proceeded to Dover. (F.O., Dover Straits, 1709/30)

Protective Patrols

On being sailed by C. in C., Nore, proceeded by route X to assist evacuation and spread to following points: A, east arm of Dunkirk Pier; B, beach 1 mile east of A; C, 2 ships at Bray; D, at La Panne; E, ½ mile east of D. If A is occupied, join B. (N.O.I.C., Dover, to ICARUS, IVANHOE, IMPULSIVE, INTREPID, HAVANT, HARVESTER, 1603/30)

War Diary

30.5.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

Bray Sector — In Bray sector of beach British Troops are in centre. Ship(s) detailed for Bray should act accordingly (N.O.I.C. Dover 1455/30)

La Panne — Ships urgently wanted abreast of La Panne (V.A. Dover 1749/30)

Re Opening Fire — In view of large number of vessels and boats operating tonight, fire must not be opened unless hostile character of vessels has definitely been established. (V.A. Dover1830/30 to all ships taking part in evacuation)

LEDA — Expect arrive Margate Pier 1600 with about 500 troops on board. (LEDA to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, 1319/30)

KEITH
WINCHELSEA — Proceed, KEITH to Bray, WINCHELSEA to Dunkirk by route X and continue evacuation. (N.O.I.C., Dover, 1438/30)

SCIMITAR — Expect to arrive 1600 with 450 troops. Following received N.O.I.C. Dover from S.N.O. Dunkirk. Request I may be informed when M.T.B. left. This is urgently required for control of small boat traffic. T.O.O. 1403 SCIMITAR 1500/30

Shelling & Bombing — Being shelled off Calais (SCIMITAR, 1534/30) Enemy bombing off Calais SCIMITAR 1535/30)

Daylight Passage — As far as possible ensure that troops and small craft who may not have been instructed do daylight passage on route X only. (N.O.I.C. Dover to S.N.O., Dunkirk, N.A. Dover, 1602/30)

Shelling — Enemy shelling Dunkirk East Pier. (VIMY 1720/30)

SABRE on Fire — Am being fired on by shore batteries off Calais. (SABRE 1755/30)
Am on Fire Dunkirk (SABRE) 1756/30)

Route X — All ships are to use route X (V.A. Dover, 1316/30)

Motor Launches — War office have placed 7 30-knot motor launches at your disposal and are sending th them to Ramsgate today. Naval crews are being sent to man them (list of names) (D.O.D. (H) to V.A. Dover, 1336/30, 1822/30)

War Diary

30.5.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. Contd.

Food Scarce

CODRINGTON left Dunkirk 0930 with 830 on board. Food scarce amongst military remaining ashore. Request 40 cases corned beef and 40 cases biscuits may be ready for embarkation on my arrival at Dover. (Capt. D.I. 0956/30)

Route

Destroyers are to use Route 2 in low visibility. (F.O.I.C. Dover, 1047/30)

Need for Boats

Please inform Admiral Dalan that the urgent requirement for evacuation from the beaches is boats for ferrying the men from the beach to the ships. (1st S.L. 1035/30)

EXPRESS

Proceed to Dunkirk. If berth is occupied receive troops from beach 1 mile E of Dunkirk, taking opportunity to enter Dunkirk, (N.O.I.C. Dover to EXPRESS 1130/30

All Ships move to Dunkirk

Following received from R.A. Dover. All ships La Panne and beaches proceed at once to Dunkirk. (F.O.I.C. Dover, 1242/30 to all ships Nore and Dover)

Cancelled

Do not act on my 1242 (V.A. Dover, 1548/30)

Position on Beaches

Personal from 1st Sea Lord. Have you personally investigated condition on all beaches as Lord Gort has just telephoned me that there are no craft or boats of any kind off the Eastern beach where he is. Report immediately any deficiencies for rapid evacuation from Dunkirk and beaches. (1st S.L. to R.A. Dover Straits 1433/30)

Boats Available

My 0940/29 and Admty. 1110/29 Officers of S.V.P. now in areas mentioned have been ordered to cooperate with your organisation. The are to supply records from S.V.P. of boats available and to send boats as ordered in Admty. 1115/29 and not as in my 0940/29 (D.S.V.P. to C. in C.'s, Portsmouth, Nore, and V.A. Dover 1130/30)

Officers in Command

Authority for Operation Dynamo under V.A. Dover is as follows. R.A. Wake-Walker appointed R.A. Dover for command of sea-going ships and vessels off Belgian Coast flag hoisted in HMSH. Capt. Tennant appointed S.N.O. Dunkirk and is responsible under R.A. Dover for all shore organisations. (V.A. Dover 1308/30)

War Diary

30.5.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. CONTD.

Missed Opportunity

Great opportunity missed during the night only three drifters arrived. Some craft now loaded unsuitable in daylight. No water or food yet provided on Dunkirk beach for large number of troops. Sporadic bombing. Fighters most necessary. (S.N.O. (A) Dunkirk to N.O.I.C., Dover 0755/30)

State of Dunkirk

East Pier at Dunkirk practicable. All wrecks visible. East side East Pier also practicable at high water. (VICE 0735/30)

Hospital Carriers Needed

Pass to W.O. from Military Dunkirk Absolutely imperative that minimum five Hospital carriers report Dunkirk otherwise several hundred wounded cannot be accommodated or treated. Cases have occured of carriers arriving off the port and failing to enter. Can this be remedied Essential to know time of arrival at least two hours in advance. (VICE 0745/30 to N.O.I.C. Dover)

Evacuation Going Well

Following from S.N.O. Dunkirk. Things rosy here now. Food and water landed, army men being get away. (Capt. (D) 16, 0834/30 to N.O.I.C. Dover)

Enemy Shelling

Shelled from shore batteries position 51. 10' N 2.35'E off Nieuport Buoy (SHIKARI 0841/30)

Situation

Opinion has been expressed to me that Germans could now take Dunkirk any time th they please but they prefer not to in order to continue their attacks on our army and fleet. I cannot of course estimate the accuracy of this view. (C. in C. Nore. 1158/30)

WOLSEY

Try going alongside inside or outside East Arm, Dunkirk Pier, to embark troops. Report how things go. (F.O. Dover to WOLSEY, 0817/30)

Need of Warships Alongside

Have no M.T.B. and can only communicate to U.K. by French wireless station or when your destroyers are in sight if conditions remain as at present. A destroyer alongside continuously for embarkation would be a magnificent help. The moment bombing starts all must shove off. (S.N.O. Dunkirk to F.O. Dover, 0943/30)

War Diary

30.5.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk

Ships to Guard Flank

Danger of enemy mechanised forces working along beach and cutting off B.E.F. Be prepared to engage enemy forces so encountered by day or night. (N.O.I.C. Dover 0015/30)

H.M.S. ICARUS H.M.S. IMPULSIVE. H.M.S. IVANHOE. H.M.S. HARVESTER. H.M.S. HAVANT. H.M.S. JAVELIN. Proceed to Sheerness at 0500/30 (N.O.I.C. Dover 0150/30)

Belgian Vessels to be used

Belgian embassy authorises use of all suitable Belgian vessels for evacuation purposes. (D.T.D. 0232/30 to C. in C., Nore)

More Ships Needed

More ships and boats urgently required at West Beach (VANQUISHER 0415/30 to F.O.I.C. Dover and ESK)

State of Dunkirk approaches

Your 0030 Entrance to Dunkirk harbour practicable obstructions exist towards outer side of eastern arm. (VANQUISHER 0551 (30 to RESOLUTION)

Whilst harbour remains practicable situation at west beach would be greatly relieved if continuous stream of destroyers was available to enter Dunkirk to embark troops. (VANQUISHER 0632/30 to N.O.I.C. Dover)

Ships & Boats Needed

Essential to have more ships and boats as there are still many hundred of soldiers on the beach. (VIVACIOUS, 0640/30)

Entrance to Dunkirk

Channel is not blocked but large gap exists in eastern arm so that destroyers must come alongside to landward of gap. Ready for first destroyer immediately. (S.N.O. Dunkirk, 0645/30 to Capt. D.1)

More Destroyers Needed

Destroyers can be received in Dunkirk at a higher rate. (SCIMITAR, 0605/30)

No French Craft

No French small craft off beach. (R.A. 1/C Dunkirk to V.A. Dover, 0705/30)

Following received from D'TENNADT (? Capt. Tennant) M.T.B.'s will be best to evacuate naval personnel except for S.N.O. and Brigadiers will probably remain to control final stage. My communications increasingly difficult. (ends) (VIMY 0740/30)

War Diary.

30.5.40.
Thursday.

POLICY.

Destroyer Shortage.

In view of serious shortage of destroyers it is suggested that an immediate order be issued to all dockyards and firms engaged in repairs to destroyers that this work is to be given first priority and all other work subordinated to this end.
(C. in C. Nore 1535/30).

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Harwich — Request decision whether Train Ferries may be used to block Harwich Harbour. (C. in C., Nore to Admty. 1040/30)

Your 1605/26 trained demolition party cannot be provided from Chatham Depot. Services of R.M.S.C., Yarmouth should be used for training party locally. (C. in C., Nore 1038/30, to F.O.I.C., Harwich)

Invasion — Chiefs of staff consider that attack on this country is imminent. All defences to be manned during hours of darkness. Work on defences will be accelerated to the utmost possible on vulnerable coats. Considered that enemy may employ large fleet of fast motor boats up to 200 carrying 100 men each for raid on large scale. These boats could make passage of North Sea during dark hours and considerable force could be landed at many points on coast simultaneously with air borne raids inland. Commanders will make such changes in their dispositions as necessary to meet threat, Air coastal patrol at dawn and dusk has been instituted as from tonight. (HOFOR London 2140/30)

Requirements at Lerwick. (A.C.O.S 2029/30)

Dingle Bay — Your 2207/29, examination of merchant vessels making for Dingle Bay. Concur generally but do not consider boarding by s/m desirable. Request ship detailed be sailed for Plymouth as early as practicable H. 43 and MANOR leave patrol today. (C-in-C WA 1633/30 & V.A.S.)

Great Britain at War — Preparations for attaining Second object in para 7 of Admty. 0130/24 are at a standstill at Hull. Port Emergency Committee deny responsibility for all except L.N.E.R. property. Lord Mayor has no power but is anxious to help. Regional Commissioner unable to help by delegation of Authority. No responsible Military Officer in Hull. Recommend immediate appointment of Lord Mayor as fully competent authority for all matters in Hull and District. (F.O. Humber 2020/30)

Anti M.T.B. Force — An anti motor torpedo boat force is being formed and will work from Harwich. Following recommendations for ships against enemy war motor boats. (C. in C., Nore, 1337/30)

War Diary

30.5.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions- Contd.

Harwich — Requested Harwich, Felixtowe and Shotley be scheduled as prohibited areas as in last war. Most necessary to enable action being taken against undesirable persons not confined to Aliens. (F.O., Harwich, 1750/30)

Scottish Coasts — Patrols already established off Tyningham Sands, Dundee, Montrose, Aberdeen, Peterhead. When trawlers arrive from Stornoway intend one to patrol off most vital beach in Moray Firth. This is all I can maintain. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2235/30)

Wick Harbour — Admty. 1904/25 Defence of Wick Harbour, trawlers available for blocking, military guns , etc., Do not consider mines in approaches to Wick Harbour are necessary. (A.C.O.S., 1703/30)

Harwich — Your 1605/26 and 1040/30. Train ferries are not to be used. Plan for blocking entrance to harbour is not to be put into force at present.

Situation will be reviewed again later. Arrangements to be made for blocking River Orwell with suitable vessel at short notice. (D.D. of L.D., 1950/30 to F.O., Harwich)

Peterhead — Your 1801/29. Consideration should be given to patrol by M/S trawlers from Peterhead at night (D.M.S., 1735/30)

Defence of Ireland — Re assembly and organisation of Belgian fishing boats at Dover. (D.S.V.P. 2044/30 0308/31)

Movements.

Orkneys — Estimated positions, ships in Orkneys and Shetlands. 1800/30. (F.O.C.O.S. 1722/30)

NELSON — Ready for sea 2/6 and to sail for Clyde (D.O.D. (H) 1642/30)

YORK — Your 2013/30 confirmed (A.C.H.S.(H) to C.in C., H.F., 1238/30)

Submarines — Positions 0600/30 (D.C., 2138/29, 0601/30
Positions 0600/31 (D.C., 2018/30)

War Diary

30.5.1940.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

AIR

Normal British coastal patrols were flown during the day, and a great number to support the evacuation and prevent the approach of M.T.B's.

German air force operating on 30/5 showed a ~~clearance~~ decrease on previous days, probably due to deterioration in the weather. Aerodromes in Belgium and N.E. France were used to an increasing extent during past week.

There was considerable enemy air activity off the coast from Harwich to the West of the Isle of Wight, probably minelaying; and shipping was bombed in the Downs and off Orfordness.

Our own patrols operated in the Dunkirk-Furnes area between 0525 and 2130.

Mining

The Boom defence vessel CAMBRIAN was mined and sunk at 1736/30 at Spithead. Portsmouth was closed and danger areas declared off the Nab Tower and the Needles.

Italy

Negotiations between the Allies and Italy on contraband control economic questions have been broken off. The general situation is unchanged.

Patrols have been established off the coast of Spain and Portugal to intercept Italian merchantmen in the event of war with Italy.

Narvik

War Diary

30.5.1940.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Northern France

The B.E.F. has had hard fighting and considerable casualties; all divisions are much reduced in strength and most units are extremely tired. The enemy are in contact along most of the front and are in possession of Wieuport, while still holding Bridgeheads at Abbeville and St. Valery.

Evacuation of B.E.F.

A ground mist favoured embarkation today. Food and water were landed and about 25 Destroyers entered Dunkirk in rotation, effecting a much higher clearance than that on the beaches where there was a shortage of small craft and naval personnel.
Up to 0700 on 31st May a total of 145,544 men had been landed in England, of whom 9.230 were British casualties and 11,666 Allies mostly French. The naval losses to-day were French Destroyer torpedoed by M.T.B.'s, one Destroyer and two small Torpedo boats on fire, four small Transports and two Patrol Boats sunk, and one Destroyer one Gunboat, and one Transport damaged.
A total of 222 naval vessels have so far been employed in this operation, including 41 Destroyers, together with 665 other craft and boats.

R.A. Wake-Walker in EXPRESS is in charge of embarkation arrangements.

During the operations today three British ships LORINA 1578 tons, SPINEL 650 tons, & WORTHTOWN 868 tons, were sunk off Dunkirk and the British PRINCESS MAUD 2883 tons was damaged off Gravelines but is safe.

The crews of 2 tugs refused to tow barges from Dover to Dunkirk, and were to be replaced.

French troops are beginning to arrive for evacuation. This is to be from Dunkirk.

The approaches to the mole at Dunkirk were subjected to heavy and continuous shell fire in the evening 30/5

Norway

The enemy have been cleared from Narvik and the Arkenes Peninsula but are still holding Beisfjord and Allied troops are advancing on Storhogden on the Narvik / Lulea Railway.

Bodo has been heavily bombed by the enemy, but his land forces are still about 30 miles E of the town and on the S side of the Fjord. The Aerodrome is reported wrecked beyond repair.

War Diary. 31.5.40.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/MS. Attacked.

U-13 Sunk. WESTON destroyed U-Boat 0055/31 by depth charges and gunfire off Lowestoft and picked up 3 officers and 22 ratings.
(D.C. 0755/21).
Suggest the survivors be questioned exhaustively to ascertain if visit had any connection with plans for invasion. A U-Boat visit in this area is unusual. (C. in C. Nore 0816/31, WESTON 0055/31).
Sunk in 52°27' N. 2°2' E. 3officers, 22 ratings rescued, 1 believed missing. Am rejoining convoy. (WESTON 0230/31).

Did U-Boat lay mines ? (C. in C. Nore 0953/31).
I think not, she was on special job. (WESTON 1020/31).

1621 By Canadian destroyers RESTIGOUCHE and ST. LAURENT, 48°50' N., 05°15' W., 344° Ushant 22'.
Attacked contact. (B.4).
(I.C. 0468/40).

War Diary. 31.5.40.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

TEMPLEMOAT — British (4427 tons) 020 25 miles from Ushant 48.46' N., 4.59' W. attacked by s/m. (TEMPLEMOAT 0516/31).

ORANGEMOOR — British (5775 tons) torpedoed and sunk by S/m. 25 miles S.E. Start Point 49°48'N., 3°27' W. at 1305/31. She was in homeward bound convoy from Gibraltar. Canadian destroyers proceeded to hunt the S/m. (D.C.N.S. 271).

S/ms. Reported.

0600 — S/m. periscope and canning tower clearly seen off N.W. Goodwins Buoy. Am hunting. (VIMY to V.A. Dover 0600/31).

1136 — 53°35' N. 4°20' E. Reliable fix. (V.A.(S) 1232/31, D.D.I.C. 1225/31). Off N.W. Goodwins. (VIMY 0820/31).

1305 — 49.48' N., 03.27' W., off Start Point (ORANGEMOOR torpedoed, see Attacks on Ships).

1621 — 48.50' N., 05.15 W., 22 m. N.N.W. from Ushant, reported by Canadian destroyers RESTIGOUCHE and SAINT LAURENT.

0510 — By S.S. TEMPLEMOAT, 20 miles N.N.E. of Ushant, 49°48' N., 03°27' W. (See Ships Attacked). Canadian destroyers to attack if fuel permits. (C. in C. W.A. 1009/31, 1328/31).

By 1328. Join H.M.S. ARABIS and hunt. (C. in C. W.A. to FERNIE, 1437/31).

Estimated Dispositions. — 2 or 3 near Finisterre or further south.
1 or more in Western Approaches.
Possibly 1 off N.W. Ireland outward bound.
1 in 55°35' N. 4°20' E. at 1130/31.
(D.D.I.C. 1327/31).

War Diary. 31.5.40.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

North Atlantic.

REKUM.
RUDOLF ALBRECHT. } Now ready to proceed to sea and awaiting orders.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1102/31).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Aden Shipping. Consider it would be prudent to avoid concentration of shipping and particularly tankers at Aden at the present critical times. Request diversion to Bombay to await convoy if necessary.
(C. in C. E.I. 0821/31).

LEONARDO DA VINCI. Re oil for, at Aden and Colombo.
(D.T.D. 1924/31 to C. in C. E.I.)

Sabotage. Time bomb found in British CITY OF SYDNEY after clearing hold at Mauritius.
(C. in C. E.I. 0815 Z/31).

America and West Indies.

Convoy US 3 Will only be diverted to Trinidad in emergency, but essential preparations should be made.
(Adty. 1538/31 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

War Diary. 31.5.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Patrol Vessels. Positions 1200/31.
(D.C. to C. in C. W.A. 0150/31).

Spanish Ships. Your 1024/6 approved. Action in regard to Spanish merchant ship convoyed by man of war to be suspended for the present.
(D.E.W.D. to F.O.C.N.A. 1752/31).

South Atlantic.

Danish Ships. Danish ships in which there are U.S.A. interests to be allowed to complete their current voyages.
(C. IN C. S.A. 1324/31).

Mediterranean.

Troops in Albania. The Italians are reported to be shipping 3000 troops a day into Albania.
(N.A. Bucharest to D.N.I. 1816/30).

Oil Reserve. To maintain reserve of 90,000 tons it is necessary that two large oilers arrive weekly. Request these may be sailed now.
(C. in C. Med. to Adty. 2111/31).

Shipping. Admiralty 2012/30. Request you will undertake from Saturday, June 1, responsibility for movements of British shipping in Eastern Mediterranean subject to general directions issued by Admiralty or C. in C., Med. You should keep in close touch with representative of Ministry of Shipping, Alexandria (Sir Henry Barker) as regards priorities and other matters in which he is concerned.
(C. in C. Med., 1218/31 to S.B.N.O., Suez Canal Area.)

Spanish Fleet. Composition and dispositions.
(N.A. Madrid 2117/31).

War Diary. 31.5.40.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

WOLSEY — Hit by S.S. ROEBUCK off 7 Buoy, holed forward so far flooded up to first water-tight bulkhead, can proceed at moderate speed with light load, am proceeding to Bray.
(WOLSEY 0715/31).

SIROCO — Torpedoed by 2 M.T.Bs. 0120/31, 18' N.N.W. Dunkirk. WIDGEON picking up survivors. (WIDGEON 0150/31, 0345/31, C. in C. Nore 0511/31). WIDGEON and trawlers rescued about 220 survivors out of 950.

OSTHAV — Norwegian tanker Singapore to Freemantle due 28/5 is overdue.
(A.C.N.B. 0242 Z/31).

LEDA — Damaged in collision en route to Margate.
(LEDA 0335/31).

SHARPSHOOTER — Have been in collision necessitating dockyard repairs. No casualties.
(SHARPSHOOTER 1832/31).

M.V.TORSDAD(?) — Norwegian. Confirmed by owners as lost owing to war at beginning of April.
(Oslo Radio 1250/31).

Evacuation Casualties, Merchant Ships.

Following have been sunk :-

S.S. MONA'S QUEEN	2756 tons
S.S. PENELLA	2376 tons
S.S. LORINA	1578 tons
S.S. SPINEL	650 tons

Also P.188 and P.240. (V.C.N.S. 270).

On fire :-

S.S. CLAN MACALISTER	6787 tons
S.S. WORTHTOWN	868 tons

Damaged :-

S.S. PRINCESS MAUD. (V.C.N.S. 270).

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

WEATHER.

0500 B.S.T.	Wind	Visibility	Outlook.
North Sea.	N.W. Light or moderate.	Good in N.W. Moderate in S.E.	Wind backing visibility improving.
Channel	N.W. Light.	Very good.	Wind backing.
W. Approaches	Variable light.	Very good.	Wind becoming south and freshening.
Horns Reef & S. Norway.	N.W. Light.	Moderate or poor, fog patches.	Visibility improving slowly.
N. Norway.	Variable light.	Mainly good coastal fog.	Little change.
Dutch and Belgian coasts.	N.W. Moderate.	Moderate.	Visibility improving.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Submarine construction. 200 enemy naval engineer overseers said to be supervising assembly of submarines at Amager, Copenhagen. Reliable source but not confirmed. (Acting Consul, Malmo, 1055/31).

M.T.B's 2 M.T.B's 082° 9 miles, my position 53°16'N., 4°41'E. (A/C 220 Sqdn., 1820/31). My 1820. Position is 53°03'N. 4°35'E., near line of advance 225°. (A/C 220, 1920/31).
1930. 2 M.T.B's, 310° Willamsoord 10' (A/C report). (I.C., 0468/40).
2 M.T.B's 52°40'N., 4°30'E. (A/C 220 Sqnd., 2215/31) attacked, no hits. (I.C.0468/40).
At 2346/31, 1 M.T.B. in position 51.28'N., 3.03'E., last of a line of 3 M.T.B's, estimated that a direct hit was obtained, as two M.T.B's were seen stationary after the attack with no sign of the third. (Chatham, 0310/1).

E.B's. Experience against E.B's to date, and suggested precautions. (R.A. (D), H.F., 1815/31).

Outpost Vessels. 4 outpost vessels and 1 M.T.B., 2'N., of Ameland, attacked by A/C, 0445. 1 destroyer, 5 M.T.B's and possible gunnery training ship in Willemscoord Harbour, 0550.

Surface Vessels. 3 surface vessels attacked by bombs, 1 ship and jetty hit, 53.26'N., 5°49'E. (I.C., 0468/40).

Helder. At 1900/31, photographic reconnaissance showed no German warships or M.T.B's in Helder. (I.C. 0468/40).

Shipping.

Fishing. A.M. 2403/40 of 25th May. Am strongly of opinion that fishing in this area cannot be permitted. Possible presence of neutral trawlers in an contining a secret searched channel frequently used by the Fleet most undesirable. (C-in-C., H.F., 1528/31).

Italian ship. Position of Italian ship in home waters. (D.D.I.C., 1658/31).

HOME COMMANDS.

Air (Contd).

Flagships. Attacked by A/C in 53.30'N., 5.40'E., at 0455, bomb exploded 60 yards off starboard bow. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, no T.O.O./31).

Reconnaissance. 10 JU/110 aircraft wrecked on beach, 52.06'N., 4.16'E., and 15 aircraft in a heap 52.04'N., 4.13'E., on aerodrome, mostly wrecked. Entrance Ymuiden harbour partly blocked by M.V. 7,000 tons partly sunk. (Donibristle, 1403/31).

"X-Over" report. (Chatham A.C.H.Q., 1318/31).

Ditto, Ymuiden Harbour, (Chatham A.C.H.Q., 1623/31).

Enemy Air Activity.

Braye bombed. Help (Braye 0560/31).

Work with M.T.B's. Reported M.T.B's co-operate with low flying aircraft at night circling target and distracting attention while M.T.B's attack. (C-in-C., Nore., 1754/31).

VENOMOUS Bombed, Braye Harbour (VENOMOUS, 1516/31).

Mining.

Portsmouth closed. Portsmouth was closed to shipping owing to enemy minelaying reported at 0203. (C-in-C., Portsmouth 0203/31). Newhaven has also been closed. (C-in-C., Portsmouth 0152/31).

Magnetic mining, Dunkirk. Parachute mines dropped about 2 cables S.E. of 6 E. buoy. (Capt. (D) 1, to N.O.I.C., Dover, 2250/31). 4 magnetic mines laid by aircraft in 51°06'30"N., 01°32'30"E.(SUTTON, 2250/31).

Mining by S/M's. Cancel my 1802/30. RUBIS is not now available. (V.A.S., 1559/31).

Harwich. Five parachute mines were dropped off Harwich, which has been closed to navigation. (D.S.). (I.C. 0468/40).

Folkestone. Two magnetic mines were exploded off Folkestone Pier light, and four off S. Foreland at junction of Q.Z.S. 80 and Q.Z.F.8 (I.C. 0468/40).

Dover. Danger area disclosed 1 mile radius, 6½ miles S.S.E. of Dover owing to suspected minelaying. (I.C. 0468/40).

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

French Coast.

Cherbourg — Position, 0930/31, no change. 1,800 British troops awaiting embarkation. (B.N.L.O. Marcean, 1100/31).

Le Havre. — Condition p.m. 30/5 unchanged. Submit British sweepers and Lieut. Com. Welby may now be employed at Dieppe or elsewhere from Nuba, Le Havre, 2125/30. (B.N.L.O. Marcean, 0045/31).

Dieppe. — From S.T.O., Dieppe. Position unchanged. Anticipate reopening of port. Clearance of mines, submit sweepers be sent. Engineers on repairs to lock gate machinery. Divers examination of BRIGHTON essential prior to any operations. (F.S.T.O., F.P., H.Q., L.O.C., 1720/31).

Operation C.K., blocking of Dunkirk.

My 1244/31. MOYLE and EMERALD WINGS will be met off Folkestone by a destroyer who will escort ships to Dunkirk to carry out operation C.K., blocking of Dunkirk. Capt. Deufesfield will embark in destroyer before sailing and will be in charge of the operation. If local situation requires it, R.A., Dover Straits is to postpone the time of blocking. (A.C.N.S., (H), 1600/31). My 1600. Operation C.K., postponed. (Capt. Deufesfield, 1806/31).

Operation Alphabet.

DUCHESS OF YORK to sail from Liverpool for operation Alphabet as soon as she is ready probably about 2000/31. (D.O.D(H), 1433/31).

Narvik Area.

ATLANTIS, hospital ship. — Admty 2147/28. Request she be sent Harstad (F.O. Narvik 0050/31).

HOME COMMANDS.

Narvik Area. (Contd.).

Gladiators.

For Chief of Staff from Lord Cork. I deplore decision concerning Gladiators given in Air Min. 1433/30. It is during brief period that all possible air assistance may be required. Numbers are very depleted and I hope this decision may be reconsidered. Air Min. message 189 was not AIDAC or in special cypher and I again draw attention and protest strongly against Air Ministry carelessness in sending messages on this subject by methods other than that arranged in my 0115/26 and 0924/26. Please see my 2330/39. If this continues it may have most grievous results. Understood other signals have been made on this subject direct to C.O., R.A.F., instead of through me. (P.O. Narvik 1014/31).

Oiler
ADELLEN

To sail for Narvik area as soon as possible. (C-in-C., H.F. 1113/31).

Russian troops.

Information dated 27/5 (B.2). Russian merchant vessel now using Baltic-White Sea Canal. No German troops passed Leningrad either by rail or water. Russian troops still moving from Finnish frontier through Leningrad southward. (D.N.I. 1246/31).

Supply ships.

Movements of RUTLAND, CUPRIAN PRINCE, DROMORE CASTLE, GUVNOR MAERSK, (P.O., Narvik, 1614/31).

Submarines.

Cancel my 2114/29. New arrangements as French S/M's leave North Sea for France on 4/6. (V.A.S., 1824/31).

Air.

British Air Activity.

Assisting Evacuation.

801 Sqdn., to attack troop concentrations on coastal roads east of Nieuport. (Coastal Command Liaison Officer, 1338/31).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Contd.)

ORIOLE grounded

Submit, deliberately grounded H.M.S. ORIOLE Belgian coast dawn My 29 on own initiative, object speedy evacuation of troops. Refloated dusk same day, no apparent damage. Will complete S.232 when operations permit, meantime am again proceeding Belgian Coast and will again run aground if such course seems desirable (C.O. ORIOLE, 1247/31).

Your action fully approved (V.C.N.S. to ORIOLE 2100/31).

Shelling La Panne

Heavy shelling at La Panne directed by observation balloon over Nieuport (SHIKARI, 1255/31)

War Diary. 31.5.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Evacuation (Cont.)

Evacuation of French. Intend evacuation of French from harbour should proceed from now without pause. (V.A. Dover 1916/31).

Dunkirk Lights. As it is vital to carry on with the evacuation of troops throughout every available moment day and night it is intended to place 2 white lights on eastern and western pier heads as a guide. (S.N.O. Dunkirk 1937/31) Informing ships and authorities. (R.A.Dover 2235/31).

Beach Groups. My C400/31. Embarkation will take place from beach between long.02°29'E. and long.02°36'E. Ships are to be evenly spread along this beach in order of groups from east to west. 2, 1, 3. First flight beach at 0030. LYDD take place of SALTASH. (V.A.Dover 1911/31).

Piers Rigged. La Panne and Bray report 2 piers rigged and plenty of troops ready to come of. (V.A.Dover 2111/31).

R.A.F. Pilots. Fighter Command request that the fighter pilots who have force-landed about Dunkirk be given priority in embarkation for return. Urgently required. (Air Min. 2335/31).

More Boats Needed. Further 30 motor boats and up to 40 pulling boats required at Ramsgate. No more yachts, drifters or trawlers are to be sailed to Ramsgate unless ordered. (C. in C. Nore, 2255/31).

Dunkirk Difficulties. Slow British progress in the port due to shelling, bombing, wounded, and French troops using quay. Weather fine and clear, sea moderate, good prospects for night embarkation from beaches. (S.N.O. Dunkirk 1945/31).

Air and Sea Protection. In view of decision request maximum number of transports and air protection tomorrow and particularly air and sea protection the following days when enemy will have no other occupation. Unfortunately some hours are passing tonight without a single ship entering Dunkirk for French or ourselves. (S.N.O. Dunkirk 2353/31).

MOSQUITO Expect arrive Dover 0500. Have 500 troops including G.O.C. 1st Corps on board. (MOSQUITO 2330/31).

G.O.C.in C. Transport. Report immediately why M.T.Bs. sent for C. in C. were diverted to other duties. Take immediate action to embark C. in C. and report steps taken. (V.C.N.S. to R.A. Dover Straits 2336/31).
Your 2336. C. in C. is on his way in M.A.C. Your arrangements were not practical. (R.A. Dover 0045/1).

HOME COMMANDS.

Evacuation (Cont.)

M.T.B. PATROL. Patrol to be established during dark hours with 3 or 4 large M.T.Bs. from close inshore to 5 miles off the coast on a line approx. 348° from Nieuport Harbour entrance, to intercept enemy M.T.Bs. Evacuation is taking place from La Panne and beaches to westward. Boats to leave patrol line at daybreak and return to Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 1313/31)

Air Attack. By 801 Sqdn. on enemy troops. (See Air).

Shelling. Straddled by shore batteries No.7 W. Buoy. (Capt. D.20 1448/31).
Batteries firing from vicinity of Mardyck, suggest this be bombarded.
(HAVANT 1452/31).

Am being heavily shelled off Breze.
(VIVACIOUS 1520/31).

Vessels as far west as Zuydcoote are being shelled.
(R.A. Dover 1550/31).

Small Craft. No more small craft to be sailed for Ramsgate until further orders. To be kept at immediate notice at the places where they now are.
(C. in C. Nore 1825/31).

French Troops, Return. Arrangements for return of French troops from U.K. to France, from Southampton and Weymouth to Cherbourg.
(D.O.D.(H) 1623/31).

Beach Parties. Further beach parties are being sent in WORCESTER (V.A. Dover 1333/31).

Dunkirk Harbour. There is no difficulty in destroyers going alongside in Dunkirk Harbour. Many troops are waiting there. Embarkation from beach is very slow by comparison. (HAVANT 1600/31).

Beaches. Army wish to recommence evacuation at 2030. Instruct boats and ships to close beaches at this time. (N.O.I.C. Dover to F.O. Dover Straits 1640/31).
Ref. 1600. Shall I instruct troops remaining ashore Bray to proceed to Dunkirk. (VIVACIOUS to N.O.I.C. Dover 1652/31).

VENOMOUS My 1517. All my ammunition now expended. Have been unable to embark additional military in last 2 hours. Request permission to return to Dover to replenish ammunition. (VENOMOUS 1733/31).

Priority for Dunkirk. When there is room in Dunkirk Harbour destroyers are to enter there in preference to beach.
(N.O.I.C. 1910/31).

War Diary

1.5.40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

NARVIK Area

H.M. the King of Norway and his Govt. were transferred from GLASGOW to the Norwegian ship HEIMDAL in Malanger Fiord at 2130/1. He intends to remain in the Tromso area, but not in Tromso itself, and communications will be made via the British Consul.

Grand Hotel, Harstad, the Naval Base headquarters, was bombed and hit, two ratings being killed. Three bombs fell near the S.S. ATLANTIS, hospital ship, which was lying quite apart. Something else was set on fire with 45 casualties, but the message was corrupt and this has not yet been cleared up.

The oiler BOARDALE, part of a convoy of 3 supply ships bound for Narvik, which was damaged by grounding off Lango Island at 1840/30, later caught fire and sank. No casualties.

Mosjoen, Mo.

ROYAL ULSTERMAN (Vice BEN MY CHREE, delayed) and MOHAWK left Scapa with the landing party for Mo at 2230/1. JANUS is held up by fog, and has not yet been able to land her party at Mosjoen.

Namsos Area

Evacuation in this area, which was to have started on the night 1/5-2/5, was postponed owing to fog. JANUS, who should have joined CARLISLE to assist in the evacuation, is also held up by fog. Both she and CARLISLE were bombed during 1/5.

C.S.20 considers that two nights will be required to evacuate Namsos.

War Diary

1.5.40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

Aandalsnes Area

C.S.2 reports the evacuation operation completed. 2,200 troops were embarked from Aandalsnes, 120 Royal Marines from Veblunoses, which is across the fiord from Aandalsnes.

WANDERER, which went ashore near Aandalsnes at 2315/30, was towed off by SIKH, after jettisoning her torpedoes. She is damaged, but can still steam 25 knots.

Aandalsnes was bombed intermittently during the day. CALCUTTA and AUCKLAND had 150 bombs aimed at them without being hit, and were ordered to withdraw, being needed for evacuation at night.

Captain (D) 6, in SOMALI, left Aalesund at midnight 1/2, with the Primrose party, consisting of 9 R.N. and R.M. officers, 202 ratings and R.M.s., 24 wounded and 15 civilians. Two seriously wounded, including Mr. Bernardes, British Consul at Haugesund, who is not expected to recover, have been left behind.

AUCKLAND was left to embark the final covering party. General Paget is in MANCHESTER.

DIANA sailed for Tromso with Norwegian C. in C. and 30 of his staff.

Enemy Air Activity

Considerable enemy aircraft activity during the day, the meteorogical flight being out as usual during the morning; reports indicate area of observation central North Sea, and an area east of Kinnaird's Head. Our Naval forces operating off the Norwegian coast were shadowed and attacked at various times during the day. 2 aircraft-carriers 5 cruisers, 1 sloop and 3 destroyers reported attacks on them. Enemy aircraft engaged in the transport of troops etc. were again active, this time taking troops from Oslo to Utersen.

There were extensive x-raids along the East Coast during the night 1/2 May. Ports from Blyth to the Humber are closed to shipping. At Blyth, one German aircraft flew round the South Harbour machine-gunning.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

Enemy Air Activity (continued)

Dunkirk is also closed, but traffic will probably be resumed there tomorrow. The port of Harwich is open.

British Air Activity

All patrols except one North of Scotland were flown.

At 0955/1, Coastal Command aircraft reported 1 aircraft carrier, 3 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 20 miles N.W. of Borkum (see Enemy Intelligence). Further aircraft were despatched to re-locate this force without success.

Bomber Command's latest report and photos give the number of German aircraft at Stavanger as 80. Six Bomber Command aircraft raided Stavanger. Six Aalborg, and six Fornebu.

MANCHESTER shot down one aircraft at 2115/1.

12 aircraft have been out on special duty in the northern part of the Sound and the Elbe.

V.A.(A) reported on the night 1/5 that ARK ROYAL had been heavily bombed and had shot down an enemy aircraft at 1915/1. As he stated that he could not operate close enough to the shore to support the troops, C. in C. ordered his force to return to Scapa.

Miscellaneous

Wrecks of two ships which are apparently German merchant ships sunk by mines have been reported from the Hague as being near Hubert Gat Buoy, at entrance to River Ems.

Diving operations on submarine UNITY have been begun.

The French destroyer MAILLE BREZE, which caught fire p.m. 30/4, sank in six fathoms at Greenock.

War Diary

1.5.40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Northern Patrol In view of absence of neutral or enemy Eastbound shipping primary object of Patrol for the present becomes interception of disguised raiders. Courses of A.M.C's will be reversed at 1400 today Wednesday. V.A.N.P. 0901/1.

Submarines Positions 0600/2 and movements (V.A.S., 1917/1) (D.C. 2223/1).

Operations

Floatplane Organisation Under consideration to form for use in Narvik area, probably consist of 18 Roc's, 9 Swordfish (816) and 6 Walrus ex-cruisers under refit. (5th S.L. 2015/1).

Foreign Troops Request confirmation and date of arrival Foreign Legion at Ballangen in Ofot Fiord and Poles to Tromso. Understood Poles have Commanders and staff, but maintenance must be from France until French are established here. (Rupert Force to W.O. 1345/1).

Aircraft Carriers Admiralty 1526/30. Necessary for carriers to return to Scapa to be re-equipped before proceeding to Narvik area. (C. in C., H.F. 1857/1). See also Air.

Nets and Mines Adty 1706/27 and my 0019/1. Propose PROTECTOR lay approx. ¾ mile of B.1 net west of Staksvollholm forthwith and then be released for Mediterranean. Remaining defence can be completed by boom trawlers and laying of mines when available. (F.O. Narvik, 2333/1).

Propose to send 260 mines in TEVIOT BANK and 80 in PLOVER leaving Immingham about 10/5. (D.O.D.(H) 0017/2).

Stores My 2230/30. Owing to delay with BEN MY CHREE, ROYAL ULSTERMAN to transport stores and personnel to Narvik area. (C. in C., H.F. 0921/1, 123/1). Sailed escorted by MOHAWK (C. in C., H.F. 2244/1).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik (continued)

Trawler Patrols Asking for increase of trawlers for patrol based at Skjel Fiord from 8 to 11 Patrols ordered are Bogen (2) Ofot (2) Skjel Fiord (2). 11 trawlers considered minimum. (PENELOPE 2204/1).

Floating Pier Adty 1459/29 (from F.O., Narvik, floating pier at Portsmouth to be sent Vaagö Fiord). Pier now at White's yard for alterations. Could leave 9/5 if first priority given. (A.S., Portsmouth 1947/1).

Situation Allied plan to arrange cone-shaped encirclement of Germans Narvik sector now completed. Narvik Cemetery demolished during naval bombardment silencing German battery in the Cemetery. Reliable information states Germans have given up positions highest areas Narvik being now entrenched shore with machine guns intended to prevent troop landings. Germans Narvik lacked heavy guns and British Navy now silenced all guns they had. Believed 4000 civilians still Narvik town. (Reuter, Stockholm).

Tromso

Defences Summary of report from Consul Tromso. No A.A. or other guns mounted. Only a few machine guns. At Naval Flying station Skattoyra are 4 Heinkel and 2 Norwegian reconnaissance planes. 207 Mines but no minelayers. 3 Trawlers with 3 inch guns.

Following are considered necessary by Norwegian authorities for defence of the Island. 8 in number 4 inch guns. 5 in number 4 barrel mounting 20 M.M. pom-pom. 20 lewis guns. Predictors and range finders. Ammunition and staff instructors. 2 destroyers. (F.O., Narvik, 1141/1).

War Diary

1.5.40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Namsos

Coast Patrol — At earliest moment that they can be provided a division of destroyers should be detailed for the sole duty of patrolling coast and fiords from Namsos northwards to prevent movement of enemy troops by sea. Force to be based on Skjel Fiord. (D.O.D.(H), 1527/1 to C. in C., H.F.)

Mosjoen Party — On completion of transport of party of 50 men from Namsos to Mosjoen, join F.O.C. 1 C.S. off Kya Light, 64:29 N., 10:12 E., at 2000/1 unless otherwise ordered. (C. in C. H.F. 0002/1).

Mosjoen, Mo.

Request destroyer sent to Mo, 66:19 N., 14:16 E., to prevent enemy landing until arrival of detachment of troops in S.S. ROYAL ULSTERMAN about 3/5 (D.O.D.(H) 1236/1).

Trondheim

No Enemy Ships — Following from prisoner. No warships in Trondheim, 20 Junkers operating today from Vaernes. Reinforcements arriving Trondheim by aeroplane only. (V.A.(A) 2355/1).

War Diary

1.5.40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aandalsnes, Aalesund, Molde.

Sickle Report — From Norwegian H.Q. for War Office from Sickle. Message from Gen. Paget. Next 36 hours entirely dependent on degree air support forthcoming. If fighters impossible, ask ~~bombers~~ bombers maintain continuous attacks from 0500/1 in Gudbrnasdal Valley. Stress continuous presence British aircraft essential. (no T.O.O./1).

Evacuation — About 1500 remain to embark tonight, but Norwegian number uncertain. Constant heavy bombing during daylight but none during embarkation. (F.O.C. 2 C.S. 0425/1).

Numbers of Army ranks embarked Aandalsnes 0050/1. (ARETHUSA, 0656/1).

AUCKLAND — Expect arrive Aandalsnes 0630 (AUCKLAND, 0415/1).

TARTAR — May be required at Aandalsnes tomorrow night. To leave ULSTER PRINCE so as to be able to ~~x~~ comply. (C. in C., H.F., 1635/1)

SOUTHAMPTON — Ordered to sail before dark tonight whether passengers are transferred or not. (F.O. 2 C.S. 1907/1).

Orders to MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, DIANA, CALCUTTA, AUCKLAND (C.S. 18, 0915/1).

Personnel Position — As a result of continual bombing night and day, all personnel at Aandalsnes ~~xx~~ including Brigadier and Captain Champness are shaken and it appeared no one there really knew the position at the front. Colonel Simpson has been evacuated wounded. Incendiary bombs dropped in a line have been the method of illuminating the area for night bombing. (F.O. 2 C.S., 1024/1).

Details on board, 12 officers 583 other ranks, (S.O. 18 C.S., 1101/1).

War Diary. 1.5.40. Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Aandalsnes, Aalesund, Molde

Personnel Position Continued

Numbers still to evacuate from Aandalsnes about 1800. Final evacuation commences at 2300 (CALCUTTA, 1303/1).

War Office estimates number British troops may be as high as 2900. Very important to embark bullion if at all possible. (C. in C., H.F., 1601/1).

Lieut. Col. Kettle, now in ARETHUSA, reports military evacuation plans assumed first base party would sail night 29/30. Not known withdrawal had been postponed 24 hours. Change of date dislocated arrangements, although ~~port~~ front line troops from Dombaas reached Aandalsnes last night. (C.S.2, 1252/1).

If SHEFFIELD and SOUTHAMPTON have only a few troops on board send them back to join F.O. 18 C.S. for tonight, as if there is a large rush of Norwegians at last moment F.O. 18 C.S. will not now have enough accommodation (C. in C., H.F., 1403/1).

A/A Ships

CALCUTTA and AUCKLAND ordered to withdraw at once (C. in C., H.F. 1729/1).

Carriers

Do not consider I can ~~xx~~ any longer maintain a position from which aircraft can give any support to our forces. Am withdrawing to N.W. and thence to Narvik area. (R.A.A., 1922/1).

Dutch Coast

Forces Ready

Operations KD, EF, DF, forces are to come to 12 hours' notice. (D.O.D.(H) 0011/1).

Situation

Unusual activity of German ships. (N.A., Hague, 1850/1). In consequence of Dutch Govt. air reconnaissance reports of German naval movements between Emsell and Jade today, grave cumulative indications of possible attack on Netherlands soon. All coast lights extinguished tonight and garrisons prepared. (N.A., Hague, 1910/1).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Dutch Coast (continued)

Destroyers	To come to immediate notice (D.C. 1422/1) My 1422. Destroyers revert to usual notice for steam (D.C., 1935/1).

Convoys, Norway.

F.S. 2	Arrived Vaags Fiord 30/4. (F.O. Narvik, 2320/1).
N.S. 2	Hoped to sail for Narvik 2/5. Composition (D.O.D.(H) 1526/1).
F.P.3	Sailed for Narvik. List and route (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0701/1, 0705/1).
	WHIRLWIND sailed to join escort (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1316/1).
BROOMDALE	Oiler, to be ready for voyage to Narvik by 0800/3. (C. in C., H.F., 2320/1).
F.S.3	Sailed (F.O.C.O.S. 0530/1).

Allied Submarines

SFAX	French submarine SFAX patrol report. Periodic enemy motor boat and seaplane patrol. Drifting mines southward of Jaederens. (SFAX 0030/1).
PORPOISE	Patrol report 15-25/4 off Lister. (V.A.S.2312/1, 1246/1).
TETRARCH) TRUANT)	Requesting no publicity to lengthy hunts endured recently by submarines such as TETRARCH and TRUANT. Better let enemy think they were successful than to continue future hunts until air and battery power of submarine exhausted. (C. in C., H.F. 1147 /1).

Norwegian Units.

SLEIPNER	Arrived 0640 (N.O.I.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne, 0645/1).

War Diary

1.5.40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Activity

Cloud flying reconnaissance of Stade Wilhelmshaven, Schilling Roads and Ems Estuary (priority in that order) should be carried out with the object of locating EUROPA, BREMEN and enemy warships. Two Blenheim Squadrons should be in readiness for possible developments, one at 3 hours notice and second as relief. Consequent reduction in bombing effort tonight accepted. No.22 Sqdn. Beauforts will take this duty tomorrow 2/5 when Blenheims may stand down to be co-ordinated between Bomber and Coastal Command. (Air-Min. to Bomber Command, 1325/1).

Carrier Operations

Move further north. Following should be programme tomorrow Thursday:-

(a) Fighter protection, Namsos.

(b) Attack on objective in 1720/30 unless fighter defence is too strong.

On Friday repeat (b) at dawn if possible and then return to Scapa with your force. (C. in C. H.F. to Aircraft Carriers, 1853/1).

Do not consider I can any longer maintain a position from which aircraft can give any support to our forces. Am withdrawing to N.W. and thence to Narvik area (V.A.A., 1922/1) If you cannot carry out operations in my 1853/1, return to Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 2052/1).

Northerly movement during today, during which carriers have operated at maximum effective distance from coast, has resulted in carrier squadron being continuously shadowed and bombed with accuracy 4 times. Consider operations in your 1853/1 are no longer practicable by a carrier force in this area. (V.A.A. 2230/1).

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity (continued)

Operation "Zeal" Will not be carried out (my 1148/29). (C. in C., H.F. to V.A.A., 1427/1).

Rye Aerodrome Reconnaissance report (H.Q. B.C. 0555/1).

Stavanger Reports of attacks (H.Q. B.C. 0525/1, 0610/1, 0820/1, 1305/1, 1315/1, 1355/1, 2015/1).

Fornebu Report of attacks. (H.Q. B.C. 0710/1, 0825/1).

Aalborg Report of attacks (H.Q. B.C. 0710/1).

Skua shot down Skua L.2905 shot down in error, both occupants saved (NUBIAN, 2054/1).

Reconnaissance Nordeney, Schillig Roads, etc. (H.Q. B.C. 1845/1, 0120/2, 0430/2).

Enemy Air Activity

Aandalsnes Continuous shadowing for last hour. (CALCUTTA, 1135/1).
14 aircraft bombing Aandalsnes. (CALCUTTA 1620/1).
Anticipate more intensive bombing, request fighter protection. (CALCUTTA, 1625/1).

Attacks on British Warships Bombing attacks were made on H.M. ships continually during the day, the following vessels being involved.
ARK ROYAL and GLORIOUS, aircraft-carriers.
CALCUTTA and CARLISLE, A.A. ships.
AUCKLAND sloop.
SOMALI, WALKER and JANUS, destroyers.

(contd.)

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity (continued)

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(contd.)

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (continued)

CARLISLE	Bombed 190 RJGD 12. (1030/1).
DEVONSHIRE	Bombed 154 QFJV 6 (1304/1, 1627/1).
JANUS	Bombed 277 RJGD 19 (0920/1).

Mining

Enemy Mines. Dunkirk	Admiral Nord reports 2 or 3 magnetic mines laid apparently in Dunkirk Roads. All traffic is stopped but it is hoped to resume normal traffic during tomorrow. (V.A., Dover, 1755/1).
St. Mary's Light	55:04 N., 1:27 W. is an excellent leading mark for enemy aircraft dropping parachute mines, also U-boats. Suggest extinction. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1056/1). Cancel my 1056/1)F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1503/1).
Norway Minelaying	C. in C., H.F.s 2345/30/4. Suggesting amendment of area ~~within~~ which would have some effect and be easier from submarine's point of view. (V.A.S., 1804/1).
Hartlepool	Enemy aircraft reported dropped object 2 mile East Heugh Light and 015° 1 mile south Gase. Have stopped all vessels leaving Hartlepool and Tees. (N.O.I.C., Hartlepool 2245/1).
Ports closed	Consequent on aircraft mining, Blyth, Sunderland, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Dunkirk Roads were closed. The Tyne was reopened. (I.C., 0438/40).

Heavy unexplained explosions were reported:-

0145	120° Sunderland	3½	miles (three).
0159	E. of Saltscar	2	" (two).
0401	080° Heugh Lt.	½	" (one).
0421	S.E. Tyne	8	" (one).
0421	N.E. Saltscar	2	" (one).

(I.C., 0438/40).

War Diary. 1.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German Warships.

A /C report sighting 3 cruisers, 1 aircraft carrier and 3 destroyers in position 53° 45' N., 6° 44' E (20' N.N.W. of Borkum) at 0955/1, steering 075° at 12 knots. (I.C., 0437/40)
(A/C 206 Sqdn, 0955/1, 0959/1)
(C. in C. Nore 1036/1)
Information received suggests that the enemy are using two lines of leader cable running in W.S.W. direction for 40-50 miles from a position roughly 20' N.W. of Vlieland Island. (53° 10' N, 5° 00' E). (I.C., 0437/40)

A/C reports 4 enemy transports in LSJV 5450 course 270° speed 10 knots. (D.C.1020/1)
A/C reports a proportion of enemy transport proceeds to Laurvik (R.A.S. 1339/1)

Stavanger Area.

Three merchant ships sighted by A/C in Gans Fiord and a large ship of about 8,000 tons in Havs Fiord at 0820/1.

A/C reported 2 ships estimated 6,000 and 8,000 tons at anchor ½ mile W. of Harland S.W. of Stavanger at 1720 (H.Q.Bt. 0120/2)

Oslo Area.

10 large transports were reported to have passed Vaderoarna at 1500/1, course N.

Lister Area.

Three 1,000 tons ships sighted by a/c at 2145/1 in Lunde Fjord (10' N.W. of Farnes).

A German ammunition ship believed unable to move is reported to be camouflaged and moored west of Brattholm, 60° 24½' N, 5° 06' E.

Shipping.

Cape Diversions.

Ships diverted to Cape or to Trinidad for orders (D.C.0211/1)

Tyne.

Port open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1330/1)

Convoys.

Positions (D.C. 1903/1)

Miscellaneous.

Suspicious Ship.

At 1000/1/5 A/C reported 5000 ton ship Nyderland in BQDN 1940 course, N.W. 8 knots: name on stern only. Nationality unknown. Regard as suspicious (V.A.N.P. 1815/1)

War Diary. 1.5.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

A/A Ammunition. Experience of sloops in Norway has shown that the output of H.A. ammunition, when subject to continual bombing attacks is only sufficient for about one day. Requested that H.A. ammunition for the 4 destroyers detailed for operation F.A. may be available at the most suitable base for rapid restocking (C. in C. Rosyth 1559/1)

WEATHER.

	Wind.	Visibility.	Outlook.
North Sea.	S.E. fresh or strong in N. and E. Moderate or light in S. and W.	Good in N. and E. Moderate or poor in S. & W.	Similar.
Channel	Variable, light.	Good in W. otherwise poor.	"
W. Approaches	S. or variable, light.	Good.	"
Horns Reef.	S.E. strong.	Good.	"
W. coast Norway.	S.E. fresh or strong, in S. veering to N.W. moderate in N.	Good or very good.	"

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

Home Command.

ARLETTA in collision with FOWEY.

ARLETTA, ex Convoy H.C.27, reports possible ramming and sinking of ship showing a red light over a white light at 2352/28/4 in approximate position 48°55'N. 06°43'W. Did stop owing to fog. Written report will be forwarded. (V.A. Dover 1251/1).
FOWEY reports collision with merchant ship 28/4. After cabin flat between stations 102 and 113 flooded. Bulkhead frames and decks severely damaged. Estimated period for repairs will be signalled after ship has been docked.
(C. in C. W.A. 1904/1, V.A. Dover 1251/1).
Considered this collision was with FOWEY reported in 1904/1. Owing to thick weather ship's name not known to FOWEY.
(C. in C. W.A. 2038/1.).

BEN-MY-CHREE — Unable to weigh due to defective winch. Repairs in hand.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0210/1).

NORTHERN PRIDE — Aground in Julsundet at 0445.
(C.S.2. 1222/1).

ULSTER MONARCH — Cracked piston, another journey impossible, returning to Scapa.
(D.6. 1146/1).

BLYSKAWICA — Polish destroyer, alongside VINDICTIVE having feed tank repairs. Propose sailing for Bogen 0700 tomorrow.
(BLYSKAWICA 1650/1).

AGHIA VARVARA — Lost propeller. WINDSOR and tug to assist.
(C. in C. W.A. 1809/1).

WANDERER — (Aghore near Aandalsnes). Towed off by SIKH, damaged, but can still steam 25 knots.

America ...

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

American and West Indies.

? AUGUSTA — Broken rudder, being towed by BUTTERMERE approximately 330 miles N. of Bermuda. Ordered them to proceed Bermuda for docking and repairs. (C. in C. A. and W.I. 1650/1.)

SECRET. WAR DIARY. 1st May, 1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Diversions, Cape. My 1830/27. Ships diverted via Cape or to Trinidad for orders. (D.T.D. to F.O.C.N.A. 0210/1)

South Atlantic.

QUEEN MARY. 1218 30/4 information incorrect. Press photographs on QUEEN MARY released here that day. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown to C.in C. S.A.0950/1)

ALBATROSS. To proceed to Daker to dock and return Freetown. (C.in C. S.A.0915/1)

Mediterranean.

Enemy Trade. Captain of Egyptian ship ZAMZAM loading Constanza saw hundreds of German railway trucks loading goods for Germany. He suggests putting sand in axle grease boxes. Suggest iron fittings or mercury. (R.A. Alexandria, 1601/1)

R.A. (D). R.A.(D) Mediterranean requested to hoist his flag in ORION tomorrow and proceed Alexandria as soon as convenient after my arrival. (C.in C.Med.0947/1)

C.in C. C.in C. in NEPTUNE, with ORION, DECOY and DEFENDER, left Malta 30/4. (S.O.I., Malta 1137/1)

WARSPITE. To await further orders at Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F)0127/1

Fuel at Alexandria. Italian CANOE asking for excessive oil bunker on next visit to Alexandria. Request instructions re this and similar cases. (R.A., Alexandria, 1706/1)

Movements. Battleships and Destroyers. (D.C.0652/1)

SECRET. WAR DIARY. 1st May, 1940. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

230 Squadron R.A.F.	Re move to Egypt. Stores and spares. (H.Q. Far East Command R.A.F. to Air Ministry 0710/1)
Japanese Navy.	Admirals' appointments. (N.A. Tokyo 1101/1)
Shipping.	Your 0455/30 to Admiralty. Category (c) in paragraph 2 of my 1835/21 may be taken to include Thai, China, Manchukuo, Japan, but not Russia. (Head of M. to C.in C. China, 2356/1)

East Indies.

Contraband Control.	Commencing 14/5 on all northbound shipping unwilling to accept control Port Said. Export control on all southbound shipping not having naval clearance or not examined and cleared at sea. Directions for Italian ships. (D.E.W.D. 1150/1 to C.C.S.O. Aden)

Australia.

Troop Transports.	Pending result of discussion between United Kingdom and Australian Government, the latter do not wish Australian troop transports to proceed further than Colombo. (A.C.N.B. to C.in C. E.I.06482/1)

SECRET. WAR DIARY. 1st May, 1940
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand.

Troop Transports. Your 16082/1 not to Admiralty. N.Z.3 proceeding according to original plans. (N.Z.N.B. to Admiralty, A.C.N.B. F.O.C. A.S.2309Z/1)

SECRET

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS — 1st May,1940 Wednesday

Home Commands.

WINNETOU — My 1815/11/4. German tanker WINNETOU has not been reported since she left Las Palmas on 9/4. (Admty 1200/1).

POSIDONIA — (Sunk by TRIDENT) on 8/4) was one of two sister ships, tankers,built at Hamburg for the Oesag Co. 8,100 gross tons. The names which were to have been given them were DORSAINEN and DIRCINA; the former is thought to have been named POSIDONIA. (I.C.0438/40)

BARCELONA — 3101 G.T., was ordered at 1909/1 to make for Stettin instead of Gdynia.

South Atlantic.

BABITONGA } DRESDEN } — Report, reliability unknown, dated 1/5 states these two ships have shipped masthead crow's nests.

WINDHUK — A.1 report, Anglo-Mexican claim was to be paid into court by German Embassy 1/5. A new claim on behalf of Schroeders of London to the full value of WINDHUK's hull was to be made also on 1/5.

AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

HANNOVER — Requesting information probable sailing date. (D.T.D. to S.O.I., Kingston 2221/1).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Contd.)

Conditions at Beaches — Majority of pulling boats are broached to and have no crews. Conditions on beach very bad owing to freshening on-shore wind. Only small numbers are being embarked even in daylight. Under present conditions any large scale embarkation from beach is quite impracticable. Motor boats cannot get close in. Consider only hope of embarking any number is at Dunkirk. Will attempt beaching ships to form a lee to try and improve conditions (R.A., Dover, 1035/31).

Lord Gort, passage. — War Office require arrangements to embark Lord Gort and staff at La Panne, time not yet stated. Request you will make arrangements for 2 M.T.Bs. to be available and inform Wake-Walker of arrangements made. If beach at La Panne is not possible Wake Walker must make other arrangements and inform Lord Gort of change of plan. War Office agree. (V.C.N.S. to V.A. Dover, /31).

My 1020/31. Two M.T.Bs. to be off La Panne at 1800 today Friday to embark G.O.C. and staff. V.A. Dover to meet Lord Gort in order to receive his wishes for completion of operation. (A.C.N.S.(H) /31).

French Troops — British C. in C. has promised to provide a ship for 1500 French troops at 1315. Can you provide this, please. S.N.O., Dunkirk to V.A. Dover, 1147/31).

Carley Floats — War Office request maximum possible number of Carley floats and similar device be left lying on beaches together with paddles after other craft have withdrawn. (D.O.D.(H) 1152/31 to V.A. Dover).

Supporting Fire — Ships evacuating troops are to give supporting fire from 0400/1 as follows:- Any target(s) which may offer. No target(s) to be engaged west of La Panne, likely targets tanks and transport lorries moving along beach, all tanks hostile. Supporting fire is second in priority to embarking troops. (R.A. Dover, to skippers and authorities, Nore and Dover Command area, 1228/31).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Contd.)

SCIMITAR) HARVESTER)	Expect arrive 0915. Numbers on board, HARVESTER, 1200, SCIMITAR, 450. (HARVESTER, 0701/31).
	Conditions ideal at present for embarkation but pulling cutters urgently required also more power boats. (Col. Hutchins in IMPULSIVE, 0945/31).
Pier Masters needed	Army staff officers now on board inform me that many troops expected to reach the beach between Bray and La Panne tonight (Friday) Pier masters needed badly, also every temporary pier possible. (HAVANT 1026/31).
Enemy Batteries	S.S. COTE D'ARGENT shelled by land batteries N.W. buoy de Nieuport 1107. (Scapa W/T, 1214/31).
Destroyers	My 0550. No destroyers available yet. (F.O. Dover Straits to S.N.O., Dunkirk, 0619/31).
WINCHELSEA	My 0611. Despatch is necessary. Proceed Dunkirk East Pier if vacant, otherwise to Dunkirk Beach. (V.A. Dover, to WINCHELSEA, 0655/31).
Ships for Dunkirk	If conditions require, please deflect a proportion of the most easily manoeuvrable shipping to Dunkirk to keep Dunkirk working at full capacity. (V.A. Dover, to R.A. Dover, 0855/31).
French Troops	Lord Gort has agreed that 5,000 French troops should be embarked here this evening after dark in British vessels. Request necessary ships may be sent to arrive at dusk. (S.N.O. Dunkirk to Dover, 0957/31).
Dunkirk Main Hope	After disembarking troops complete with fuel only if less than 60% remaining and proceed as soon as possible Dunkirk by route X. If pier is occupied, evacuate from beaches up to La Panne. (N.O.I.C. Dover, to Destroyers, 1003/31).
	Dunkirk our only real hope. Can guns shelling pier from westwards be bombed and silenced? (R.A. Dover, 1105/31).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Contd.)

More Ships wanted — Nearly all ships loaded, more wanted. (F.O., Dover Straits, 0614/31).

M/S Trawlers — 2 LL trawlers coming in now (F.O. Dover Straits 0550/31 to S.N.O. Dunkirk).

Ships and fighters needed — Embarkation satisfactory despite bombardment and air attack, but stress need more ships and constant Fighter protection (N.O. Dunkirk to V.A. Dover, 0605/31).

Groups for final evacuation — Ships grouped as follows for special embarkation today:- Group 1, GOSSAMER, LEDA, ROSS, ALBURY. Group 2, HALCYON, SKIPJACK, SPEEDWELL, DUNDALK. Group 3, NIGER, SALAMANDER, GRIFFIN, SUTTON, Spare, KELLETT, SALTASH, LYDD. Object evacuation of force of 5,000 troops.
Troops will be brought off in 3 flights by waiting motor boats, commencing 0130 or earlier. 7 ocean tugs will lie to seaward of minesweepers to take overflow but maximum load of ships is necessary to ensure complete evacuation.
Group 1 to return to Sheerness, Group 2 and 3 to Dover, Spare ships to Harwich. (V.A. Dover, 0400/31). Amended (see 1901/31).

French Passengers — Am now receiving a number of Frenchmen. Have at present raised no objection to their embarking in British ships and am allowing them to do so. (S.N.O., Dunkirk, 0638/31).

Can you give any estimate of French troops embarked in French ships since 2200/30? (V.A. Dover to F.O., Dover Straits 0705/31).

Policy of H.M. Govt. is that both British and French troops be given equal opportunities for being evacuated in British ships and boats. (Dover, 0914/31).

La Panne Ferry — Ships carrying out Sheerness - La Panne Ferry are now to run to Dunkirk, Beaches and Margate instead. This service to be maintained as long as possible while conforming to my 0400/31 (V.A. Dover, 0833/31).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Evacuation of the B.E.F. (Contd.)

Ships needed — Request more ships to load at Dunkirk. (IVANHOE to EXPRESS, for R.A. Dover from S.N.O., 0320/31).

Embarkation Dunkirk held up owing to lack of vessels. (IVANHOE, 0345/31).

CALCUTTA — Provided A/S screen available request you sail CALCUTTA to 51:13 N., 02:09 E. by 0500/1st June to provide A/A escort for the last flight of B.E.F. (V.A. Dover to C. in C., Nore 0431/31).

Towing Craft — V.A. Dover from R.A. Dover. No signs of small towing craft. (Capt. D.2. 0448/31).

Army Thanks — Message of thanks to Navy from Lord Gort, and Adty. reply (1st S.L. 0108/31).

LEDA — Expect arrive Margate Pier 0530, 350 troops. Have sustained collision damage port side just above water line. (LEDA, 0335/31).

Ships for Dunkirk — Every available ship will be required at Dunkirk during next 2 hours to evacuate rest of army. (S.N.O., Dunkirk, 0445/31).

CODRINGTON to La Panne, WOLSEY to Bray, VIMY to Dunkirk beaches (V.A. Dover, 0450/31).

Boat Convoys — Boat convoy for last flight of B.E.F. departs Ramsgate 1300/31 for Dunkirk viaroute X. Anticipated time of return to Dover and Sheerness 1000/1. Request all available M.T.Bs. escort this convoy. (V.A. Dover, 0459/31).

From about 1500 3 or 4 successive tows of motor boats about an hour apart arrive at Outer Ruytingen fixed green light on route X. Request a motor boat may meet them there and lead them to beach. (V.A. Dover, 0556/31).

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Cruisers Destroyers — MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, BIRMINGHAM, FORTUNE, FURY, FORESIGHT are to be under the operational control of C. in C. Nore unless C. in C. Home Fleet proceeds to sea to co-operate in the South when they will be placed under his orders. (D.O.D.(H) 2226/31).

Submarines — Positions 0700/1 (D.C. 2101/31, 2040/31) 0600/1 (R.A.S. 1806/31).

Dutch Submarines. Communication arrangements. (D.S.D. 1720/31).

Operations

Evacuation of the B.E.F.

Troops Remaining — It appears possible certain number of troops will be unable to get away from beaches. Suggest you issue order at suitable moment that any troops thus left make by night, lying up by day, for coast between Gravelines and Abbeville, where Navy will be on watch, i.e. due West. (D.M.O. & P., War Office, to Brassard, 31/5).

French Troops — Policy of H.M. Govt. is that both British and French troops be given equal facilities for being evacuated in British ships and boats. (1st S.L. 0104/31 to V.A. Dover).

Zuidcote — Your 0045, re urgent need for boats at La Panne and Bray. No boats Zuidcoote yet. (HARVESTER to F.O., Dover Straits, 0123/31).

R.A. Dover — Where are you? Have you any troops on board? I am in EXPRESS off La Panne, (R.A., Dover, to KEITH, 0132/31).

Am leaving Dover now to join you at La Panne. (D.19 0249/31).

War Diary

31.5.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Redistribution of A.M.Cs.

The Patrols ordered by my 1809/14 and 0053/15, to intercept Italian Shipping, are cancelled.

1. CORFU, MALOJA and MONTCLARE are now at immediate disposal of C. in C.

2. CANTON will also come under orders of C. in C. as from 5/6.

3. CARINTHIA, DERBYSHIRE and PATROCLUS are now at immediate disposal of V.A.N.P. DERBYSHIRE is to leave patrol forthwith and proceed to Clyde as directed by V.A.N.P. CARINTHIA and PATROCLUS are to leave Gibraltar on completion of fuelling and proceed as directed by V.A.N.P.

4. CHESHIRE is to remain on patrol of Vigo, or as ordered by C. in C. Western Approaches, until CANTON joins the Western Approaches Command. She is then to rejoin Northern Patrol.

5. Further instructions will be issued for the disposal of ASTURIAS.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 2301/31 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C., W.A., V.A.N.P).

Enemy Raiders

In view of the renewal of enemy raids activity H.M.Ships must take every precaution when intercepting merchant ships however innocent their outward appearance, and must always bear in mind the possibility of torpedo attack. (D.O.D.(F) 1955/31).

Precautions

Italian Ships and Scuttling

Adty. 1224/27. Italian ships may attempt to block ports by scuttling themselves and should be regarded with particular suspicion. Suggested methods of dealing with this threat. Placing an armed guard on board might cause an incident and should not be done without Adty. authority except in emergency. (D. of L.D. 2246/31).

Falmouth

Requesting Falmouth and district may be declared a protected area (C. in C., W.A., 1928/31).

Eire

Whereabouts of the Eire naval units and their subsequent movements are to be reported. (D.N.I. to N.A. Dublin, 1832/31).

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Shoreham	Adty. 2142/24 and 2007/30. A battery is to be mounted at Shoreham instead of at Brighton. (D. of L.D. 1340/31).
Crail	re guard for Crail aerodrome (uncompleted) (D. of L.D. 2248/31)
H.Q. Chatham	Asking for R.M. personnel todefend Adty. House officers and Area Combined H.Q. May be assumed that enemy plans would include an early attack on area combined H.Q.'s (C. in C., Nore, 1236/31
Port of London	Recommending lights at Chapman Point and Thames Sea Reach should now be extinguished. (C. in C., Nore, 1606/31).
North Scotland	Adty. 1539/26. Suggest this reconnaissance be extended to northward to Duncansby Head. Sinclair Bay, directly north of Wick, appears to be a possible landing place. (A.C.O.S., 1727/31).
Scapa Barrage	Adty. 1536/31. Agree that Scapa Barrage be augmented by balloon trawlers now at Rosyth. (Air Min., 2150/31).
Dundee	Field guns posted Montrose and examination service commenced as from dawn today. (N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1020/31).
Dover	5th Column activity at Dover. Immediate steps should be taken. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1334/31).
Invasion of Ireland	Adty. 2010/29. Several rumours of an invasion of Ireland. Possible sailing of at least 1 German ship from Vigo and noteworthy indication that destination may be Ireland, also presence of 3 German submarines in area. No sign of an expeditionary force gathering. (N.A., Madrid, 1752/31).

War Diary

31.5.40.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Convoy U.S.3 of 5 large ships with Australian troops, escorted by CUMBERLAND and SHROPSHIRE left Cape Town today. They are due at Freetown 7/6.

Sabotage A mis-fired time bomb was found on board CITY OF SYDNEY when her hold was cleared at Mauritius 31/5. This must have been placed on board either at London or Antwerp.

Italy The patrols for the interception of Italian shipping were cancelled today.

War Diary

31.5.40.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT

Casualties (Evacuation of B.E.F.)

KELLETT damaged by bombing.
S.S. MEDWAY QUEEN, paddle minesweeper, is missing.
MALCOLM, also SHARP SHOOTER were in collision. HARVESTER, WOLSEY, ICARUS, SCIMITAR, LEDA, WHITEHALL, IMPULSIVE were slightly damaged either by going alongside or by hitting sunken wrecks.

Vessels Employed

A total of 222 naval vessels have been employed in the evacuation, including 41 destroyers, of which 13 have been sunk or badly damaged. Other craft total 665 ships and boats. (V.C.N.S, 270).

Le Havre

Conditions unchanged. Minesweeping is proceeding.

Cherbourg

No airraids and all facilities are in tact.

Texel

Air reconnaissance reports the whole length of the seaboard of Texel Island has camouflaged gun positions and wired defences.

Enemy Air Activity

Norway Transport activity between Germany, Oslo and Trondheim showed signs of increase.

North Sea No activity of importance, but there is a strong indication that German naval aircraft have been moved from the Baltic to Norderney area in fairly large numbers.

E. and S. Coast No activity during daylight, but magnetic mines were laid after dark off South Foreland, etc.

French Coast Adverse weather reduced activity, but intensive bombing attacks were made at Dunkirk and also at Bray, La Panne and Nieuport, at times by as many as 40 aircraft. After dark magnetic mines were laid in Dunkirk Roads.

British Air Activity

All normal patrols were flown. One standing patrol was extended eastward as far as the coast of Norway. An extra patrol was flown along the coast of Ireland.

C.C. aircraft reported that the 30 to 40 M.V.s lying in Bergen on 30/5 were no longer there.

War Diary

31.5.40.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Threatened Invasion of U.K.

A combined Intelligence Committee has been formed to study all intelligence matters appertaining to invasion.
There is nothing at present in indicate any large movements of troops or aircraft intended for the invasion of the U.K., and insufficient evidence to suggest when invasion will start, where forces will assemble or their objective. (J.I.C. 25).

Mining

4 magnetic mines were laid pm/31 by enemy aircraft 8 miles E. of South Foreland.
Dunkirk Roads were also heavily mined by aircraft. Harwich was closed this evening. Portsmouth and Newhaven are still closed.
2 magnetic mines were exploded off Folkestone and 4 off South Foreland.

Defence of Ireland

4 A.M.Cs. have been allotted for patrol of the coasts of Ireland against possible enemy invasion.
The French are withdrawing their 9 submarines from the North Sea, so it is impossible to spare submarines as was hoped. C. in C., W.A. is trying to assemble Belgian fishing craft for the purpose.

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk.

At midnight 31/1st, 194,241 troops had been landed. This includes 10,000 wounded and 22,000 Allies. Since 0100 31/5 British and Allied troops have been given equal opportunities of evacuation.

During the forenoon embarkation on the beaches was retarded by surf. Dunkirk and ships approaching were heavily shelled, but embarkation continued from Dunkirk. There was also heavy bombing both on the port and ships nearby, with raids at 0512-0530, 1512, 1520, 1700 and 1730. 40 enemy aircraft were bombing at 1915/31.

Anti M.T.B. patrols were in force. Several of H.M. Ships reported attacks from enemy M.T.B.'s during the night 30/31.

Therewas intense air activity on both sides.

OFFICE ACQUAINT NO. 371.

With reference to Office Acquaint 264, the Admiralty Departments and Branches at Bath are how housed as follows:-

Staff	Building	Telephone number.
Under Secretary) P.A.S.(C.B.) C.E. L. M.F.	Fernley Hotel, North Parade.	Bath 5291.
D.A.S. C.I.N.O. I.T.M. Central Distributing Room Sub War Registry.	Empire Hotel, Orange Grove.	Bath 5271.
D.of S.) D.of D.)	Pulteney Hotel, Great Pulteney Street.	Bath 5681.
D.N.C.	Grand Pump Room Hotel, Stall Street.	Bath 5481.
D.E.E.	Technical College, Lower Borough Walls.	Bath 5281.
C.E. in C. E. Branch (Vote 10).	Domestic Science Training College, Brougham Hayes.	Bath 5661.
D. of C. D. of V. Hydrographer. Nautical Almanac Office Rail Transport.	Royal School for Daughters of Officers of the Army, Landsdowne Road.	Bath 5371.
D.E.A.	Apsley House, Apsley Road.	Bath 5691.
D.N.A. N.L. (Wills) Exchequer & Audit.	Kingswood School, Landsdowne Road.	Bath 5288.
D.N.E. D.T.M. E. in C. D.S.D. D.N.O. D.S.R.	Spa Hotel, Sydney Road.	Bath 5471.

The code numbers of the buildings need no longer be used in addressing correspondence to Admiralty departments in Bath.

19th October, 1939.

War Diary

30.4.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Situation Report

Namsos

BITTERN was bombed continuously during the day, and shot down 1 aircraft. At 1500/30 she was dive-bombed by waves of 8 Heinkels and set on fire. She was abandoned and sunk in deep water. CARLISLE has the survivors on board, and all confidential books have gone north in JANUS.

Trondheim

IVANHOE, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE successfully laid mines in the Trondheim area during the night of 29-30/4.

The minelaying party Z.M.A. are returning to Scapa. PENELOPE reported at 1600/30 that three U-boats and 1 German destroyer left Trondheim and are in Skjorn Fiord.

Aandalsnes and Molde Area

GLASGOW arrived at Molde and sailed at 0250/30 having embarked H.M. the King of Norway, the Crown Prince and members of the Government, for Tromso, escorted by two J class destroyers.

Evacuation in Aandalsnes area is due to begin tonight, 30/4.
Ships engaged, GLASGOW, ARETHUSA, SOUTHAMPTON, SHEFFIELD and 3 destroyers.

There was no direct communication with Aandalsnes during today. Intermittent bombing of the town continued. After FLEETWOOD sailed with 340 (including casualties) there was no ship in the port until the arrival of AUCKLAND on the night of 30th.

C.S.2, in GALATEA, with three other cruisers, 4 destroyers and 1 transport, arrived at Aandalsnes p.m. 30/4 for the evacuation.

D.6 in SOMALI, with two other destroyers and one transport, arrived at Molde for the same purpose, and the evacuation here was completed successfully, but the Norwegian C. in C. declined to embark. He hopes that some ship will embark him on night of May 1 for a Norwegian port.

(continued)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines Attacked

1834 NORTHERN REWARD dropped 4 depth charges 60° 25' N. 5° 44' W. (I.C. 0384/40) (NORTHERN REWARD 1834/8) Non-asdic fitted trawler. FIRE-DRAKE later searched but found no visible sign of damage to U-boat (A.S.W.D. 187).

1852 Fishery Officer, Fleetwood, reports that on 8/3 the trawler CLOUGHTON WYKE and CHILTERN fired two rounds each at a U-boat 32 miles North by West of St. Kilda. CHILTERN claims to have hit the U-boat, which disappeared. It was in this position that a submarine distress signal was received from an unknown ship at 1852/8 (D.C.N.S. 189. 11/3).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked

Unknown Ship	1852	Submarine distress signal from unknown ship 58° 12' N. 9° 18' W. (315° St. Kilda 32 miles) (Scapa W/T 1955/8) (see submarines attacked and CHILTERN & CLOUGHTON WYKE below).
S.S. COUNSELLOR Sunk	1230	British 5068 tons, mined 53° 37'4" N. 3° 23' 6" E. (Liverpool Bay) In Convoy HX 22, but was off her course and not in the swept channel. (D.C.N.S. 187) all crew saved (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1700/8) Why was she not in swept channel (C. in C. W.A. 1950/8 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
CHILTERN, & Sunset, CLOUGHTON WYKE		Fleetwood trawlers gunned by submarine and replied with their guns, cutting away their fishing gear. Submarine only fired two shots then disappeared. Trawlers undamaged. (Press Assn.)

Submarines Reported

Estimated positions (D.N.I. 1200/8)

1315	51° 11'(?)N. 10° 45' W. submarine course 04, intercepted from unknown ship (Valentia Radio 1459/8).
1900	French report 2 submarines 700 tons seen 9 miles off Ymuiden steering south at 1900 today. (V.A. Dover, 2330/8).
0212	Unidentified crossing observed on No. 17 loop, probable direction West to East 6 knots. (V.A. Dover 1715/8. Report what action taken when crossing occurred (A.C.N.S. 0006/9). Details given. It will be noted that No. 17 loop lies across the French searched channel and crossing may likely be due to small coaster. (V.A. Dover, 1045/9). Crossing traced to French torpedo boat INCOMPRISE (V.A. Dover, 1212/9).
1925	Intercept 1925. DE SAINT DAY, N.Y. German submarine 32 miles N. by W. St. Kilda (Burnham on Sea Radio, 2027/8).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

South Atlantic

Crews According to information from a German source men from the crews of German ships at Lobito, Portuguese West Africa, have been trying to return to Europe as stowaways in Italian ships (Transit Mail, quoted in D.S. 188).

America & West Indies

REMOVED Intercepted 2220 tons, left Curacao S/E was intercepted 0115/8 (via [illegible] N. 62° 10'W. off S.E. coast of San Domingo) by KENTUCKY and set on fire by crew to avoid capture. (KENTUCKY 0148/8). Fire under control. Main engine damaged. Intend taking in tow. Position 139° Dagame Lt. 6 miles. One boat stamped, probably to San Domingo (KENTUCKY 0719/8). Is being towed at slow speed to Kingston, Jamaica by KENTUCKY. 8 officers and 30 men escaped in boat (C. in C. A.M.I. 0350/8). Pinded Trujillo states the escaped men landed at Higuey, San Domingo (U.S.C.(1) Kingston 1765/11). Fire still smouldering in hold. KENTUCKY doing about 4 knots with ship in tow, ASHANTI/KENTUCKY in company, expects to arrive Kingston 14/8. Has 11 officers 42 men prisoners. (C. in C. A.M.I. 1028/12).

KIEL KOLN (sailed Curacao S/S) reported aground near Dumaca (U.S.A.(1) Kingston 2230/8).

South Atlantic.

LAHN Left Montevideo 1707/8. Entered Buenos Aires A.R. 1/8. (U.S. 0368/40) (M.I. Buenos Aires, 1221/8)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

KONSUL KARL FISSER	Reported passed northwards 1230 (Haugesund 1250/8)
KONIGSBERG PREUSSEN, MARS	Arriving with coal Arriving with general cargo (Gothenburg 1330/8)
KIEL	Bound Copenhagen, is reported stuck in the ice 6 miles W.S.W. Tyloe (Sweden) and was seeking assistance of a Swedish ice breaker night 7/8(O.I.C.
STRAUSS CHARLOTTE CORDS	Arrived Rotterdam 7/3, sailed again with coal 1930/8 (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1805/8, 2000/8) O.C. 2027/8)
HELENE RUSSE	Passed Lyngnig 8/3 for Norwegian coast in ballast (Consul Esbjerg 2230/8). Fog cancels my 2230 (Esbjerg 1020/9).

America & West Indies

HANNOVER intercepted	5600 tons, left Curacoa 6/3 was intercepted 0130/8 (?18° 26' N. 68° 18'W. off S.E. coast of San Domingo) by DUNEDIN and set on fire by crew to avoid capture. (DUNEDIN 0145/8). Fire under control. Main engine damaged. Intend taking in tow. Position 129° Eugano Lt. 6 miles. One boat escaped, probably to San Domingo (DUNEDIN 0719/8). Is being towed at slow speed to Kingston, Jamaica by DUNEDIN. 8 officers and 30 men escaped in boat (C. in C. A.W.I. 2255/9). Findad Trujillo states the escaped men landed at Higuey, San Domingo (S.O.(I) Kingston 1745/11). Fire still smouldering in hold. DUNEDIN doing about 4 knots with ship in tow, ASSINIBOINE in company, expects to arrive Kingston 14/3. Has 11 officers 42 men prisoners. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1025/12).
MIMI HORN	(sailed Curacoa 5/3) reported aground near Tucacas (S.O.(I) Kingston 2236/8).

South Atlantic.

LAHN	Left Montevideo 1707/8. Entered Buenos Aires A.M. 9/3. (I.C. 0385/40) (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1031/9)

War Diary

8. 3. 40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies.

Enemy Activity apprehended — In view of possibility of enemy activity near East Coast of Canada in late spring urgently request information of best method of dealing with magnetic mines. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1135/8)

Australia

US 2 Transports — Admiralty 1231/6. In view of necessity of secrecy ~~survey~~ regarding identity of ships in slow convoy US 2 and fast US 3 it is proposed to allot reference numbers as follows: ships in US 2 XI-5. US 3 XI-7. QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, MAURETANIA will be XI-4 respectively. (Australian C'wealth, Naval Board 1215Z/8).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

SUSAR's report — Concerning interception of 2 British ships. (S.O.(I) Malta 1415/7) Confirmation or otherwise is desired (D.N.I. 1401/8).

CITTA DI BARRI — Minister Athens telegram 134 of 7/3 to F.O. FIONA first communicated Italian ship CITTA DI BARRI outside territorial waters and ordered her to stop. In spite of firing blank rounds, order not obeyed till ship inside territorial waters. Boarding officer sent to request her to leave territorial waters, which she did. Ship then boarded and sent Malta. To avoid possibility of unfortunate incident with Italians, attention of C.O. was directed to necessity of avoiding neutral waters, but I consider that in this case he was justified. (C. in C. Med. 1139/8).

Danube Operations — Re Admiralty 1852/7, Request name of ship. Convenient if she could call at Malta (C. in C. Med. 1431/8) 5 ratings left London for Bucharest 1820/7, 5 more leaving 9/3 (D.N.I. 1205/8).

Danube Operations — Propose that operations on Danube which will be under your general direction should come under immediate command of an officer on the spot. Capt. Despard, N.A. Bucharest proposed, with rank of Commodore, 1st class. Appointment as O.C. Naval Forces on Danube under C. in C. Med. would be dormant, to be brought into force in emergency by either British Minister, yourself or Admiralty. (1st S.L. 1942/8 to C. in C. Med.).

North Atlantic.

French positions — 1200/8 (D.C. 2306/7) Convoy positions (D.C. 1902/8).

HG 22 — List. (F.O.C.N.A. 1747/8).

East Indies.

Liner requisitions — C. in C. E.Is. 1026Z/7. Full particulars liner requisition scheme with Lloyd's Surveyor. H.Q. India, Calcutta, and P.S.T.O., East Indies (D. of S.T. 1551/8).

US 2 Transports — Re Admiralty 1231/6 (see Australia and New Zealand). Re draught of British ships, fuelling etc. (C. in C. E.I. 0701Z/8).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Collisions, Navigation Lights. The number of marine casualties to British shipping during the last 6 months is approx. double for similar period of peace time and large percentage have been due to collision. C. in C.'s abroad have discretion to relax restrictions on use of navigation lights in all areas except 1,6A, 7 and 9. (D.T.D. 1101/8).

South Atlantic.

Oil Supplies My 1719/29/2 and 1139/6. Anglo-Mexican informs me that owing to new arrangement re tankers now arrived at with Min. of shipping full normal fuel oil supplies will be available in Brazil for warships and merchant ships from 15/4. Up to 15/4 1000 tons straight fuel and 4000 tons bunker diesel will be available at Rio de Janeiro only (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1140/8).

Submarine off Coast My 1727/6 it is confirmed Uruguayan Govt. received information of submarine off coast. They give little credence to report but have ordered tug to investigate. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1300/8 forwarding S.O.(I) Montevideo's 1602/7).

French Patrol French force from Dakar will maintain permanent patrol off Brazilian coast, one A.M.C. from St. Paul's Rock on the same parallel latitude to longitude 040° West, one submarine of REDOUTABLE class in area enclosed by line joining Ceasa-Fernando De Noronha-Natal. (C. in C. S.A.F.1044/8).

U-boat rumours Enemy propaganda continually spreads sumours of arrivals of German submarines on East Coast of South America. Whether without foundation or not I consider it would be powerful deterrant to ultimate appearances of submarines and benefit to our prestige if British destroyers could again to shown on this coast. Proposals. If approved in principle visits should be in near future before winter conditions set in. (R.A.S.A.D. 0913Z/8).

China.

Gunboats Re manning 2 at Shanghai (C. in C. China 0440Z/8).

KAGLAND Flag verification 3/3, 24° 48' 118° 50' warships (Sir R. Craigie Tokyo, No. 4048/3 to F.O.M. 1300/40).

War Diary

8. 3. 40.
Friday.

C A S U A L T I E S & D E F E C T S

Home Commands

H.M.S. BELFAST — Considered transfer to a port for permanent repair in June. Has sustained extensive underwater, machinery and electrical damage and will require at least 6 months in dock. Report effect on other work at Belfast if this ship be sent to the port for permanent repair. (D. of D. to F.O.I.C. Belfast 0147/8) Would cause most serious delay in new warship and merchant ship construction, but machinery could be reconditioned if sent (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1650/8).

SOMALI — Ready to sail 12/3 (N.O.I.C. Middlesborough 1830/8).

KANDAHAR — Has developed structural defects similar to KINGSTON and is not fit for sea in heavy weather. Recommend she be docked as soon as possible. (F.O.C.O.S. 1000/8).

MARIE YETTE — French patrol boat, 275 tons, sunk in the Gironde after a collision. Reported 21 lives lost.

HARLINGEN — Hull 2/2 to Halifax due 24/2, overdue.

OILTRADER — Milford Haven 11/2 to Baltimore, due 28/2, overdue.

PANACHRANDOS — Antwerp 13/1 to Key West, due 5/2, overdue.

Foreign Stations.

MILFORD — Refit completed (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1938/8).

Following Ships on overdue list have arrived at their destinations.

ETHEL RADCLIFFE
PONTYPRIDD
CARSLOGIE
BENGORE HEAD
VERNON CITY
DROMORE CASTLE
INDUNA
CORYTON
HYLTON
TABARISTAN
KATRINE MAERSK

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

Ice Situation All north of Stockholm frozen in. Minimum estimate of navigation open one week after thaw sets in. (Stockholm, 1125/8).

Weather.

	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	S.W. strong in N. Light variable in S.	Fair.
Channel	Variable.	Good.
W. Approaches	S. Moderate.	Good.
Horns Reef	N.W. light.	Good.

Outlook - Similar in South, moderating and veering in North.

Enemy Intelligence.

German Transport Since 1/1/40, 100 Dutch barges have been time chartered to Germany. German commission is now negotiating purchase of 800 ton tankers (presumably for use in the Danube oil transport trade). Further similar vessels are to be built in the Dutch yards for German account. (MEW). Transfer to foreigners of ships and barges registered in Belgium is not authorised at present, but difficulty can be overcome by formation of a Belgian company, in which foreigners may be the sole partners, which would have the free management of this ship. The ship or barge may be chartered for foreign countries, though it must, under the present law, remain on the Belgian register (Censorship intercept).

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping

Convoys

Forecast of sailings (C. in C. Rosyth, 2104/8).

ON 18	Owing to KANDAHAR's defects, will be one destroyer short unless destroyer can be provided from some other source (F.O.C.O.S. 1000/8).
HX 26	Sailing distinctions (D.T.D. 1859/8) Deletion (Capt. D.Y. Halifax 1003/8).
FN 15	Number and speed (N.C.S.O. Thames 1428/8).
H.N. 18	Additions (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1334/8).
OA 105G	Details (N.C.S.O. Thames 1526/8, 1529/8).
TM 22	List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1741/8, amended 1024/9).
OB 107	Position and route (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1817/8, 1857/8).
FS 16	List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1742/8 amended 1022/9) sailed (N.O.I.C. Newcastle 2114/8, 2121/8)
GS 2	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Humber 1120/8).
MT 26	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Methil 1811/8).
HG 22	List (F.O.C.N.A. 1747/8).
OB 106	List (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 2115/8).
HX 23	Position (AUSONIA 1900/8).
HN 17	Due Cape Wrath today (D.T.D. 0334/9).

Miscellaneous.

Suspicious Light — C.G. St. Mary's reports Green Verys light 110° 8 to 10 miles. No aircraft seen or heard. T.O.D. 0450 (C. in C. W.A. 0507/8).

Outer Dowsing Light Vessel — To be replaced by light float (D.M.S. 1938/8).

Light Vessels — Minor war vessels on patrol or passing near during day light hours are to close following light vessels and ask if all is well: Smith's Knoll, Cross Sand, Newarp, Hammond Knoll, Haisboro (C. in C. Nore 1813/8).

War Diary

8. 3. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Code Words, Convoys.

At 1315 today, H.M.S. KELLY when in charge of ships from Kirkwall to join O.N. signalled help "MARIA". This code-word is exclusively for use of O.N. convoy and not for a portion, consequently confusion occurred as to where fighter should be sent. Suggested that following subsidiary code-words be employed for portion of O.N. and H.N. which are not in company with main body - Alice west : westbound portion H.N. Maria north: Scapa portion O.N. Maria south: Kirkwall portion O.N. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1744/8).

Convoys Out of position

Escorts of F.N. and F.S. Convoys to report if the position of their convoy differs by twenty mile or more from scheduled position, at following times: (a) one hour before daylight, (b) after a spell of bad weather by day, in which flying has been stopped, when flying again becomes possible. Information to be passed to H.Q., Fighter and Coastal Commands. (A.C.N.S.,2028/8).

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Convoys Observed above Clouds.

C.O. EGRET reports that on 6/3 with F.N. 12 off Outer Dowsing a Heinkel was sighted at 7,000-8,000 ft. above broken clouds at about 1915 whilst our fighters were over convoy about 2,000-3,000 ft. Convoy was attacked at about 1955. Suggested that Heinkels which attack after dark observe the convoy position previously from above clouds and that fighters before leaving should climb and investigate that area. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1815/8).

Mining.

Suspected Area Orkneys

To be swept tonight (F.O.C.O.S. 2116/8)
All exercises in Scapa Flow concelled (F.O.C.O.S. 1503/8). Hoxa Sound was closed, but by 9/3 a sufficient area had been swept to allow of its being opened again.

Sweeping Reports

No sweeping today (C. in C. Portsmouth 1846/8).
do. (Cdr. I/C Sheerness 1845/8).
One mine sighted, identified as H², sunk by rifle gunfire in area where floating mines were reported yesterday (C. in C. Portsmouth 1037/8) Vansittart sank 2 floating mines German type; 220 Dungeness 12 and 175 Beachy Head 9 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1953/8)

D.W.I. exploded one mine 8/3 6 cables 0° from wreck of DUNBAR CASTLE in N. Goodwin area (C. in C. Nore 1724/8).

Enemy Minelaying

Attacks on Outer Dowsing Light Vessel on 2 successive nights suggests intended minelaying in that area either by U-boat or surface ship, our surface patrols on E. coast have never yet succeeded in stopping an enemy minelayer and none are available. Could submarine be placed on patrol for dark night period a few miles to Eastward of Outer Dowsing Lt. vessel (C. in C. Nore 1552/8) See Movements.

Magnetic Mine

Exploded in 51° 23' 54" N., 1° 36' 48" E. (I.C., 0385/40).

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Air-raid

Strong indications that enemy air activity may be expected shortly on E. Coast (C. in C. Rosyth 0840/8) Cancel (C. in C. Rosyth 1046/8)
One bomber over Kirkwall 10,000 ft. steering W (BERWICK 1344/8) at 1355, 2 bombs or mines were seen to drop approx. 1 mile 55° from N.E. end of Calf of Flotta (F.O.C.O.S. 1509/8, 1654/8, 1852/8) Heinkel brought down by Hurricanes from Wick 15 miles E. Stronsay (F.O.C.O.S. 1654/8).

Convoy ON.18

1315. Ships sailing from Kirkwall to join Convoy ON.18 being attacked by enemy aircraft (KANDAHAR 1315/8).
My 1320, 2 bombs dropped by 3 Heinkels, no hits. (Capt. D.5 1325/8).

Outer Dowsing Light Vessel

T.H.V. PATRICIA reports Outer Dowsing light vessel bombed two nights in succession. Lens out of action, no structural damage. Part of crew request medical attention. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth. 1140/8).

ONTARIO)
DONALDA)

Press report attacked during weekend.

Air Reconnaissance

Amended report of C.E.H. 129, Bockum and Sylt Patrol, night 7/8 March. Aircraft fired on by a ship, believed destroyer. Over 40 ships in 2 convoys seen 30 miles N.W. of Terschelling. (H.Q. Bomber Command, 2050/8).

Merchant Vessels Free to engage Aircraft.

From 1200 B.S.T., 9.3.40, all merchant ships and fishing vessels at sea between the East Coast and the declared mined area (Eastern Barrage) from North Foreland to Kinnairds Head and between Coast of Scotland and a line N. Ronaldshay to N.E. corner of Eastern Barrage may engage by day and night any aircraft not recognised as friendly approaching within the range of ships' guns. Effective range of guns in merchant vessels is about 850 yards, but aircraft should be warned not to approach within 1,500 yards of merchant ships and fishing vessels in areas described. Order does not affect necessity for aircraft to keep more than 6 miles away from H.M. Ships. (Air Ministry, 2016/8). (see also 9/3). Above repeated by D. of L.D. Admiralty, 2116/8, with reference to C. in C., Nore, 1629/4. Ref. C. in C., Nore, 1816/7, extension of above areas and matter of navigation lights are under consideration. (D. of L.D., 2116/8)

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet — Owing to magnetic minelaying in Scapa RODNEY, REPULSE, RENOWN and destroyers spent the night at sea and entered Scapa 1100/9 (A.C.O.S. 1852/8, D.C. 0751/9).

Northern Patrol — Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 9 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait - 2 A.M.Cs.

Submarines — Positions 0700/9 and movements (R.A.(S) 1632/8) (D.N.I. 1828/8)

Submarine Patrol — A few miles Eastward of Outer Dowsing Light Vessel 9/3 (C. in C. Nore 1552/8, V.A.(s) 1746/8, Capt. S.3 2243/8, N.O. Harwich 2339/8) see mining) Destroyers will thus not be required for this patrol after tonight (C. in C. Nore 2248/8)

Destroyer patrol — Starting tonight 2 destroyers to patrol near to Eastward of Outer Dowsing Light Vessel to intercept U-boat or surface minelayer (C. in C. Nore 1648/8) Cancelled see submarine patrol above.

Blockship, Blyth — JUNIATA at Blyth due to complete by 11/3, to be inspected before sailing for seaworthiness and security against sabotage. (C. in C. Rosyth 1153/8).

Submarine Escort Vessels. — V.A.S. AB. 107/100 of 20/2, para. 5. Arising out of conference held by C. in C., Home Fleet to discuss ALM/D 2040/40 of 2nd March, apparent that the provision of 3 vessels for escort duties with submarines at Harwich, Blyth and Firth of Forth is essential. Requested that three vessels may be requisitioned immediately for this purpose, priority for the one required Harwich. (V.A.S., 1139/8).

Operations.

ALTMARK — N.A. Oslo reports ALTMARK has anchored outside Saudefjord on account of ice conditions off Swedish coast and will not be permitted to enter the Oslo defended area (D.C. 2336/8).

War Diary

9.3.40.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships attacked

CHEVY CHASE, **mined, sunk** 1620

British 2,179 tons, mined and sunk 33 miles off Lincolnshire coast 53° 18'N, 01° 13'E. Was in convoy F.S. 16 with 4,000 tons of coal from Blyth to London. Appears to have struck a mine just outside the swept channel. No casualties. (D.C.N.S.) (WOOLSTON 1620/9) (I.C. 0385/40) Crew rescued by trawler MONIMA.

S/m's reported

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C. 1114/9)

Probable Reliefs

Probability based on estimate of periodic reliefs that U-boats will be passing through the area covered by anti-submarine air patrol L.5. during next two or three days. (D.C. 1954/9).

0600 — 250 ton s/m reported 05' off Ameland to-day course West. (A.2.) (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1515/9) (N.A. Hague, 1120/9)

0530 — S/m reported by trawler in VLGB 2250. (C-in-C Rosyth 1448/9).

0530 — Scarborough trawler JUST REWARD 54:22 N, 0:10 W 9 miles N.E. by E. Scarborough Castle, saw a submarine on surface. Immediately dived. (B.3) (I.C. 0385/40) (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1315/9).

Oil for Germany — Norwegian ship bound Portugal to Norway was stopped at night about 10 days ago 52° N 14°W by German s/m. Papers were examined and ship allowed to proceed. (N.A. Oslo 1500/9)

French convoys — Information from a good source in Ostend that a trawler found a mine in her net /3 when fishing off West Hinder in same general locality as moored mines have been found on the Downs. Dutch ports route. U-boats appeared and forced trawler to hand over her fish. The trawler skipper thought the U-boats were mine-laying. (M.S. Summary No. 22).

Leakage of Information

America and W. Indies

9th Cruiser Sqdn. disbandment — Proposed that 9th Cruiser Sqdn. cease to exist from a date convenient to you. 8th Cruiser Sqdn. would then consist of

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Convoys	Positions (D.C. 1906/9)
French Forces	Positions 1200/9 (D.C. 0300/9)
OG and OGF Convoys	If 6 hours or more early or late in crossing Meridian of 11° West, signal to be sent F.O.C.N.A. 12 hours before the estimated time given. (D.T.D. 1704/9).

South Atlantic

MOORDWIJK	Dutch s.s. sailed from Schiedam 26/2 for Buenos Aires or Rosario. Future destination and anything unusual to be reported. (D.N.I. to S.O.I. Montevideo, 1813/9).

Mediterranean

CERES COLOMBO	Proposed programme. Arrive Darivin 10/4 (C-in-C Med. 1733/9) Reply see Australia 11/3.
Command of Danube.	N.A. Bucharest 2100/9 see 10/3
Oil for Germany	French N.A. reports sure source informs him during last 5 days 4 trains made up of German tank waggons have been observed en route to Rustchuk. Believed these trains may be passed through Varna Glen. (A.N.A. Belgrade 2136/9).
French convoys	Exchanged escorts and proceeded E. and W. respectively (S.O.I. Gib. 1228/9).
Leakage of information	Disclosure of date of sailing of British ship. Is this an attempt to broadcast date of sailing of S.S. ATHLONE CASTLE from a neutral port? (R.A. Alexandria 1916/9).

America and W. Indies

9th Cruiser Sqdn. disbandment	Proposed that 9th Cruiser Sqdn. cease to exist from a date convenient to you. 8th Cruiser Sqdn. would then consist of ORION, DESPATCH,

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and W. Indies (continued)

9th Cruiser Sqdn. disbandment (cont)

normally be worn in the cruiser employed on the West Coast of South America. (Hd. of M. to C-in-C A. and W.I. 1458/9).

Sabotage in U.S.A.

Consul-General, San Francisco, reports plot to blow up troop ships sailing from Australia and New Zealand, also to sabotage S.S. NIAGARA at Vancouver and later tankers or vessels carrying aeroplanes from San Pedro. U.S.A. military intelligence aware of plot (A.I.) (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1236/9).

East Indies

Lights shown by merchant ships.

Following instructions substituted for those given in D. M. S. Part I, Article 47, and apply to ships navigating in Red Sea and between longitude 032.55'E. and the easterly limit of area 3. A. Side-lights and only one masthead steaming light may be exhibited at any time. B. Stern lights only to be used for purpose of avoiding collision and are to be extinguished as soon as danger of collision is past. C. Electric lights are always to be used where available. D. Masthead steaming light and side-lights must not be visible for more than 2 miles, and the stern light 1 mile. Important these limits are strictly adhered to. (C-in-C E.I. 0728Z/9).

China

German S/M Base

Information in S.O.I. Shanghai's 0959Z/9 mentioned to Vice-Admiral Iwamura in interview in interview 8/3. He professed ignorance of such report, but I received impression from behaviour of the Japanese present that they had in fact similar information. Admiral remarked that if true it would be grounds for declaration of war by Britain on Russia. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 0314Z/9).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

South Atlantic

WINDHUK — Is there any chance of her sailing within next 10 days? (C-in-C S.A. to A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro and R.A.S.A.D. 0915/9).

LAHN — Entering Buenos Aires this morning Saturday. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1031/9) B.B.C. states LAHN has scuttled herself off Buenos Aires. Report details. Was H.M.S. ALCANTARA involved? (R.A.S.A.D. to S.O.I. Montevideo 1127Z/9).

North Atlantic

HELIOS
SEVILIA
HUNDSECK — Returned to Seville from Bonanza p.m. (Seville 2130/9).

Americas and West Indies

Supply of Fuel — Your 1655/10/3 and my 1850/12/3. Arrangements can be made to raise embargo on bunkers of remaining German ships in Dutch West Indies in order to tempt them to sail. Should you wish embargo raised, request you will inform Admty. when convenient for this to be done. (D.O.I.(F) to C-in-C A. W. I. 1156/9). Reply see 10/3.

ROTA — Left Curacao 0300/9 G.M.T. (I.C. 0585/40) (S.O.I. Kingston, 0343/9).

East Indies

BRAUNFELS
DRACHENFELS
ERMLAND — Three German ships at Marmagao, Portuguese India, BRAUNFELS, 7547 tons, DRACHENFELS, 5347 tons and ERMLAND, 7788 tons, report that they can remain there in safety until May, when the monsoon breaks. They will then have to discharge their cargoes and will be unable to take in fuel owing to the shallowness of the harbour. Master of DRACHENFELS trying to arrange for payment of harbour dues by discharging cargo. Ships have experienced considerable difficulty owing to lack of crews deterioration of hulls and disputes with the local agents. (D.S. 10/3)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

HERNOSAND — 953 tons. Arrived Haugesund for herrings. (I.C. 0385/40) (Haugesund 1915/9).

SCHWANECK — Left Gothenburg in ballast (I.C. 0385/40) (Gothenburg 1301/9).

LIPPE — Arrived Narvik for ore (I.C. 0385/40) (Narvik 1137/9, 1203/12).

STRAUSS
CHARLOTTE CORDS — Left 8/3 (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1415/9).

MARS — Now discharging coal (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1301/9)

Pilotage to Murmansk — Four pilots each paid 18,000 kroner for piloting German ship, date not known, with munitions for Murmansk. Included return pilotage. A person at Kopervik arranged pilotage. Money paid by German Govt. source, shipowner's permanent pilot. (N.A. Oslo, 1515/9).

America and West Indies

Supply of fuel — Your 1625/10/2 and my 1850/12/2. Arrangements can be made to raise embargo on bunkers of remaining German ships in Dutch West Indies in order to tempt them to sail. Should you wish embargo raised, request you will inform Adty. when convenient for this to be done. (D.O.D.(F) to C-in-C A. W. I. 1136/9). Reply see 10/3.

ESTE — Left Curacao 0300/9 G.M.T. (I.C. 0385/40) (S.O.I. Kingston, 0345/9).

East Indies

BRAUENFELS
DRACHENFELS
EHRENFELS — Three German ships at Marmagoa, Portuguese India, BRAUENFELS, 7847 tons, DRACHENFELS, 6347 tons and EHRENFELS, 7752 tons, report that they can remain there in safety until May, when the monsoon breaks. They will then have to discharge their cargoes and will be unable to take in fuel owing to the shallowness of the harbour. Master of BRAUENFELS trying to arrange for payment of harbour dues by discharging cargo. Ships have experienced considerable difficulty owing to lack of money deterioration of hulls and disputes with the local agents. (D.S. 10/3).

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

Home Commands

KELLY	Damaged in collision with GURKHA 0520/9 and proceeded to Leith (KELLY 0655/9) GURKHA undamaged, KELLY damaged forecastle and will require docking. (F.O.C.C.S. 0921/9). Has hole in her side, Temporary patch essential before proceeding to dock ard. No casualties (Capt. D5. 1532/9)
S.S. TIBERTON	British (5228 tons) left Narvik independently 14/2 with iron ore, for Tees has not been heard of since.
MAINDY HILL	British, 1918 tons, Leith to France, reported to have been in collision 3 miles off Hartlepool and subsequently abandoned after attempts to beach her had failed. (Cullercoats Radio 2332/9, 2346/9) Sank S 78° E. 1 mile Heugh Lt. All crew rescued, one injured.
SAINT ROSARIO	SAINT ROSARIO with which collided now in Tees. (N.O.I/C Hartlepool 1145/10).
ASHLEY	British, 1323 tons, aground half-a-mile south of North Goodwin lightship, and in need of assistance. (N. Foreland Radio 1356/9, 1440/9, V.A. Dover 1817/9). Hope of saving her abandoned. Ramsgate lifeboat landed crew 17 a.m./11 (Press Assn.).

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

WEATHER

	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	W. Moderate	Poor
Horns Reef	S.W. Moderate	Poor
Channel	S. Light	Moderate
W. Approaches	S. Moderate	Moderate

Outlook:- Little change.

Enemy Intelligence

Enemy B.C.'s reported — Wick Radio reported that trawler IB reported 2 battle cruisers bound N.W. about 2012 no challenge. Passed to COSSACK by C-in-C Rosyth (C.C.O. Lyness 2042/9, C-in-C Rosyth 2204/9).

Munition ships — Reporting that 4 pilots were paid for piloting German ships with munitions for Murmansk (Dornier, Oslo 1515/9) The pilots concerned will probably be black listed by Pilot Association. Ship was probably JAN WILLEM reported in my 1500/6/2. (Dornier, Oslo 1500/11).

Dutch fish in Germany — Owing to attacks on fishing vessels by a/c's fishermen of Ymuiden are making objections to their catch being sold to Germany. Only 14 ships of the fishing fleet sailed last week. (N.O.B.O. Rotterdam 1512/9).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys (cont.)

FS 18	Escort (C-in-C Rosyth 1202/9)
SLF 23	Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 0827/9) (D.T.D. 1959/9) Position and escort (D.T.D. 1958/9)
SL 24	Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 0952/9)
OB 106	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Mersey 0050/9)
OA 106	Portsmouth Section (C-in-C Portsmouth 0800/9)
FN 16	JAVELIN to cover (C-in-C Rosyth 1312/9)
ON 19	Route and escort (C-in-C Rosyth 1312/9)
HX 28	Route (D.T.D. 1729/9)
HG 22	Destinations (D.T.D. 1705/9)
HGF 21	Arrived with WHIRLWIND (N.C.I.C. Liverpool, 1445/9)

Miscellaneous

Allocation of French s/ms to Harwich. Re. Adty. 2370/6. Remarks re accommodation etc. (R.A.(S) 1951/9).

Suspicious Dutch vessel Grimsby trawlers which were attacked by enemy a/c's 7/3 between 1330 and 1900 report having sighted a Dutch seine netting vessel at dawn in 54° 10'N, 2° 30'E. She remained in sight until a short time before the attacks commenced. Dutch vessels number IJN 27 with Holland and Dutch flags painted on sides. Vessel had W/T and it is reported that locality is most unusual for seine net fishing. (C-in-C Nore, 1518/9).

Dutch fish in Germany Owing to attacks on fishing vessels by a/c's fishermen of Ymuiden are making objections to their catch being sold to Germany. Only 14 ships of the fishing fleet sailed last week. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1312/9).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Mining (Contd.)

Enemy Minelaying on Downs - Dutch ports route. See U-Boat Campaign.

Shipping.

Trinity House Vessels. As Trinity House vessels are now armed, proposed that in future these ships should not normally be escorted. Since February 26, PINTAIL, SHELDRAKE and WIDGEON engaged on this escort work for 7, 6 and 2 consecutive days respectively, interfering with their normal time in harbour, (C.in C. Nore, 2141/9).

Dutch Fishing. Owing to attacks on fishing vessels by aircraft Dutch fishermen of Ymuiden are making objections to their catch being sold to Germany. Only 14 ships of the fishing fleet sailed last week. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 1312/9).

Convoys.

OG and OGF.	Signal of hours early or late in crossing meridian of 11 deg. West to be given to F.O.C. North Atlantic 12 hours before by Commodores of Convoys. (D.T.D. 1704/9).
Positions.	(D.C. 1906/9).
HGF 23.	Route (D.T.D. 1150/9).
OGF 22	Route (C.in C. W.A. 0959/9 amended 1246/9).
HX 23	Position (C.in C.W.A. 0051/9).
FS 16	Numbers (F.O. Tyne 1021/9).
HX 21	Successful (D.T.D. 1357/9).
FS 15	Arrived, numbers (N.C.S.O. Thames 1321/9).
HG 21	Route (C.in C.W.A. 1211/9).
OA 107	Programme (N.C.S.O. Thames 1151/9).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Mining (Contd.)

Enemy Minelaying on Downs - Dutch ports route. See U-Boat Campaign.

Shipping.

Trinity House Vessels. As Trinity House vessels are now armed, proposed that in future these ships should not normally be escorted. Since February 26, PINTAIL, SHELDRAKE and WIDGEON engaged on this escort work for 7, 6 and 2 consecttive days respectively, interfering with their normal time in harbour, (C.in C. Nore, 2141/9).

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HG 21	Route (C.in C.W.A. 1211/9).
OA 107	Programme (N.C.S.O. Thames 1151/9).

HOME COMMANDS (Contd.)

Air (contd.)

from a position 6 miles S.E. of Kirkwall. Five minutes later they turned to S.E. course. Fighters were sent up but failed to intercept. (D.C.N.S. 188).

Air Reconnaissance. Owing to weather, no reconnaissance was carried out over the North Sea south of 56° N. Heligoland Bight and Estuaries reconnaissance: no sign of salvage operations where Blenheim bombed a U-Boat 4/3 but sea too rough for such operations (Hq. Bomber Command 2030/9).

Merchant Vessels Engaging Aircraft. A.671, 9/3. French authorities to be asked to agree to extension of the instructions in my A.517, 8/3, to cover the area from North Foreland to Dungeness. If approved, this would imply that all merchant ships and fishing vessels at sea from Dungeness eastward to the eastern mine barrier would be free to engage by day and by night any aircraft not recognised as friendly approaching within range of ships' guns. (Air Min. 1927/9).

East Coast Lightships. British A/C's. asked to give all possible moral support to lightships between Smith's Knoll and Cromer Knoll. During daylight, fighters in the neighbourhood have been asked to fly low and make their identity known to the crews. (Air Min. 1435/9).

Mining.

Enemy Mine off Whitstable. Second aircraft mine in sea off Whitstable, located last spring tide, when first was recovered, exploded spotaneously at 0300 on 1st March. Pieces of metal mine casing recovered to-day from the water. (C.in C. Nore, 1831/0).

D.W.I. Operation. Carried out to-day. 79 runs done. One mine exploded mine cables 000 degrees from wreck of DUNBAR CASTLE. (C.in C. Nore, 1630/9).

Safety in Searched Channels. Safety of traffic in searched channels is a primary responsibility of the Minesweeping Forces. Particularly important that all dangers in vicinity of the channels should be buoyed. Attention called to various methods of rigging, danbuoys, etc. (D.M.S. 1243/9).

War Diary.

9. 3. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Home Fleet. C.in C. in RODNEY, with REPULSE, RENOWN and 8 destroyers, arrived Scapa 1100. Hoxa Gate has been reopened (F.O.C.O.S. 1056/9).

Northern Patrol.

Orkneys to Faroes. — Trawlers.

Faroes to Iceland. — 2 cruisers, 8 A.M.C's.

Denmark Strait. — 2 A.M.C's.

Submarines. Positions 0700/10. (D.C. 1857/9) (R.A.(S). 1701/9).

Irish T.B. — M.I, first of six T.B's. ordered from Great Britain for Eire coast watching service (first naval unit in the country's history). Arrived Kingston, Dublin, late night 9/3 under Lieut. J.H. Carey, R.N., with Irish crew. (Press).

Operations.

ALTMARK. — Arrived Sandefjord 7/3. Reported to be negotiating for docking and repairs as it is believed she has lost her rudder and is steering by engines only. I myself saw picket boat flying German flag put off from Sandefjord this morning. Norwegian destroyer ODIN is at Sandefjord (Nielsen, Skien, 1425/9, N.A. Oslo 1530/9).

She appeared in Berne and Amtliche Lists as Fleet Auziliary before the war (D.N.I.1848/11).

Air.

Enemy Air Activity. Four enemy air raids took place between midnight and 0400; one off Edinburgh Lithg Vessel (mouth of Thames); 2 off Barrow Deep Light Vessel (mouth of Thames); 3 North of Spurn Point in Holderness; 4 off mouth of Humber. A Plot of the raids showed that the A/C's. taxied off the water at 50/60 m.p.h. and then flew to the east. The sea was calm and the night starry and conditions were good for laying magnetic mines (D.C.N.S.). No attacks on shipping reported during the day (I.C. 0385/40).

At 1650, German aircraft were plotted approaching

War Diary

10.3.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

S/m's Attacked

A.M.	A/S trawler attacked contact (doubtful) off Liverpool, 53° 30½' N, 3° 26½'W, 246 Bar Light Vessel 5'. (I.C. 0385/40)
0433	HASTY attacked contact 53° 47' N, 5° 16' W (311° Skerries 30 miles) Probably non-sub. (HASTY 1245/10)

S/M's reported

	Estimated positions (D.D.I.C. 1110/10) Single bearing obtained is believed to indicate U-boat in Western Approaches is now homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1335/10)
2107	49° N 8° W (230° Scillies 85 miles) Position indefinite (D.C. 2300/10) BROKE, WILD SWAN, WINCHELSEA attack (C-in-C W.A. 2359/10)
2100	Trawler BRAERIACH reported sighted s/m 45 miles N. by W. Noup Head West Bay (A.C.C.S. 1185/11) 60° 5'N, 3° 16'W.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked

ABUKIR — Pilotage office, Antwerp, reports British steamer ABUKIR sunk by mine 3 miles W. by S. magnetic middle bank light buoy. Crew saved. (N.C.S.O. Antwerp 1040/10).

BORTHWICK — 0210 British 1097 tons mined or torpedoed off Dutch coast between Rotterdam and Flushing, near Schouwen Light Buoy 51° 44' 30" N, 3° 22'E. Captain reports ship struck two mines. Crew landed at Flushing. (I.C. 0385, 0386/40, D.C.N.S. 189) (N.C.S.O. Antwerp 1040/10) (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1316/10)

AKELD — Cable from Flushing states that a wreck has been reported in 51° 43' 30" N, 3° 15'E, about five miles from where the BORTHWICK was sunk. May be wreck of British AKELD, 643 tons, which left Rotterdam 9/3 for the Downs and failed to arrive. (D.S. 188) Wreckage, including lifeboat, picked up by Dutch M/V VIKING was examined by Marine Supt. of AKELD's owner but he was unable to identify it. After explosion in BORTHWICK, AKELD was seen to turn to come to rescue, when second explosion was heard and lights of AKELD disappeard. A Belgian pilot vessel has located a wreck about 1½ miles from where BORTHWICK sank. Mined or torpedoed 51° 44'N, 3° 22'E. in 13 fathoms. (M.S. Summary No. 22).

S/M's reported

Estimated positions (D.D.I.C. 1110/10) Single hearing obtained is believed to indicate U-boat in Western Approaches is now homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1338/10)

2207 — 49° N 8° W (230° Scillies 85 miles) Position indefinite (D.C. 2300/10) BROKE, WILD SWAN, WINCHELSEA attack (C-in-C W.A. 2329/10)

2100 — Trawler BRAERIACK reported sighted s/m 45 miles N. by W. Noup Head West Ray (A.C.O.S. 1155/11) 60° 3'N, 3° 16'W.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

DIETER HUGO STINNES	Reported to owners 0614/10 fast in pack ice 3 miles from Nakkehoved without ice-breaker (I.C. 0385/40)
HELENE RUSSE	Proceeding north tonight, destination Kristiansand for herrings (Consul, Esbjerg 1520/10)
IDA BLUMENTHAL) LUNA)	Left Porsgund (Dkien 1825/10)
ALTONA	Was stuck in the ice at 1840 56° 26'N, 12° 36'E (6 miles N. of Hallands Vadero)
Unknown	Unknown German ship arrived 9/3 and now loading ore, may sail tonight (D.D.I.C. 0937/10)

America and West Indies

Supply of fuel.	Adt. 1136/9. In view of recent activity in Caribbean involving prolonged periods of continuous sea time by H.M. ships suggest undesirable to raise embargo on bunkers until return of ORION to Caribbean early in April. (C-in-C A.W.I. 0212/10)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (continued)

Dangerous area.

A Farsund broadcast declares a dangerous area in Gulf of Genoa between parallels

44° 13' 15" N
44° 13' 30" N
8° 30' 50" E
8° 33' 5" E

RIVA LIGURE

Italian tanker, to be detained at Malta until further orders. If ship already sailed to be brought back if possible (D.E.W.D. 1838/10)

China

Minesweepers

Adty. 1332/9. C-in-C E.I. to allocate China and East Indies minesweepers to best advantage with regard to weather and earliest date of arrival in Mediterranean. R.A. Malaya is then to propose passage arrangements of the Singapore ships (C-in-C China 0300Z/10)

America and West Indies

Patrols

H.M.S. DUNDEE and French submarine CURIE arrived from Trinidad-Grenada. Patrol area. (R.O.A.C. Trinidad, 1930/10)

Mediterranean

Sailing disclosure

My 1916/9. disclosure of date of sailing of British ship ATHLONE CASTLE from Rotterdam. Message received by wireless at 1754 G.M.T. from Ecclwijk on 37.96 metres. (R.A.I.C. Alexandria, 1631/10)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Positions 1200/10 (D.C. 0111/10)

Convoys Positions (D.C. 2014/10)

South Atlantic

Sweep from Dakar Force consisting of French PROVENCE (flag) and DUQUESNE and H.M. ships HERMES, DECOY and DEFENDER sailed from Dakar 1600/9 for sweep, returning to Dakar 16/3 (C-in-C S.A. 0932/10)

Whaling expeditions List of British whaling expeditions leaving fishing grounds between 9-27/3 and programme of movements. All vessels will ultimately proceed to United Kingdom with whale oil. General cover is to be given to these valuable ships on passage to Freetown; each has a crew of 300 or more. Not more than one or at most two ships should be included in any convoy from Freetown. They should be stationed in safest position in convoy. (D.T.D. 2229/10)

America and West Indies

Patrols H.M.S. DUNDEE and French submarine CERES arrived from Trinidad-Granada. Patrol area. (N.C.S.O. Trinidad, 1905/10)

Mediterranean

Sailing disclosure My 1916/9. disclosure of date of sailing of British ship ATHLONE CASTLE from Rotterdam. Message received by wireless at 1754 G.M.T. from Kootwijk on 27.96 metres. (R.A.I.C. Alexandria, 1531/10)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

Home Commands (continued)

KELLY	Re-docking (D.D.O.D.(H) 1819/10)
DELIGHT	Reserve feed tank leaking and boilers showing 3/10 density. (DELIGHT 1000/10)

Foreign Stations

ALEXANDROS	S.O.S. requiring tow. Position (S.S. ALEXANDROS 0514/10, 2255/10) Disabled through engine trouble in a storm off coast of Portugal is being towed to Lisbon, due to arrive 12/3 (B.U.P Lisbon 11/3)

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous (continued)

WOLFE's delayed report (cont.)

at once retransmitted it to the proper authorities and at 2131 C-in-C H.F. ordered WOLFE to report the result of his investigation. (WOLFE 1710/10, C-in-C H.F. 0046/11) Reply. Failure in clearing my 1710/10 due to inability to establish communication with Scapa as experienced also 9/3 (WOLFE 0748/11) Asking V.A.N.P. for full details (A.C.O.S. 1121/11) Possibly an eastbound convoy. Am of opinion there was at least one warship. Have searched. Nothing to report. (WOLFE 0745/11) Ordering WOLFE to report reason for delay in clearing 1710/10 (V.A.N.P. 0149/11)

Weather

	Wind	Visibility
North Sea (N. of 54' N.	W.N.W. Moderate	Good
North Sea (S. of 54' N.	S.W. Moderate	Moderate
Channel)	S. Moderate	Moderate
Western Approaches)		

Enemy Intelligence

KONIGSBERG — At Hamburg 26/2 C.3. (D.D.I.C. 1256/10)

Casualties and Defects

S.S. MAINDY HILL — sank S 78° E. 1 mile Heugh Lt. after collision 2315/9 with S.S. SAINT ROSARIO. Latter now in Tees. (C.G. Hartlepool 0750/10, N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1145/10, 1520/10)

CAF-N-BRYN — Aground 12 miles S.E. Outer Dowsing Lt. V. (AGRET 1252/10) GRAFTON sent to assist (CURACOA 1403/10) also tug SEAMAN (C-in-C Nore 1531/10) Afloat and safe. Position of grounding (GRAFTON 1712/10) Arrived Humber 2130 (F.O. Humber 2205/10)

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (continued)

Convoys (cont.)

SL 22	Details (C-in-C W.A. 0951/10, 1006/10)
FN 15	Cancel reference in my 2344/9 (Movements of Ships) (C-in-C Rosyth 0734/10)
FS 17	39 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1010/10)
OG 21	Route (C-in-C W.A. 1053/10)
HN 18	Sailed for rendezvous (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1119/10) Route for ships which lose convoy (D.T.D. 1101/11)
OA 107	Number and speed (N.C.S.O. Thames 1159/10)
OA 108 GF	Programme (N.C.S.O. Thames 1159/10)
OB 108 GF	" (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1242/10)
TM 23	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 1108/10)
FS 18	List. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1648/10)
HGF 22	Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1730/10)

Ocean Convoys

Positions	(D.C. 2014/10)
ON 19	Arrive Point E 1000/14 S.O. local escort COSSACK
HN 19	" " E 1400/14 (D.T.D. 1631/10)

Routes Ships reported sunk by mine 3 miles W. by S. mag. of Middle Bank Lt. Buoy. Routes between Downs and Rotterdam or Amsterdam should not for present pass between Schouwen Bank and Middle Bank (D.T.D. 1943/10)

Miscellaneous

Tugs. Re. requirements at Ramsgate base. (V.A. Dover 6255/10)

WOLFE's delayed report In a signal timed 1710/10 A.M.C. WOLFE reported "9 vessels, perhaps warships" sighted in position 50 miles from N.W. corner of Iceland, adding "shallIinvestigate?" For some reason, this signal was made on a wavelength which only Adty. could receive, and was not transmitted until 2037, addressed to "Scapa". The Adty.

HOME COMMANDS

Air (continued)

Navigation lights (continued)

returning from operations may not know they have crossed the coast and therefore may be encountered over land unilluminated. Apart from above proviso fighters and ships at sea in area described above may fire by night at any aircraft showing navigation lights (Air Min. 2242/10)

Attack on Scapa Flow 8/3 Defence of Base

Large amount of non-operational flying which is taking place in this area is seriously handicapping Sector Commander at Wick and was a cause of confusion during the attack on the Flow afternoon 8/3. Additional measures required to enable Sector Commander Wick to carry out his function of defending the Fleet Base from air attack (A.C.O.S. 1656/10)

No flying is to take place over Flow at Scapa until further orders (R.A.N.A.S. 1455/10, 1842/11)

Air Reconnaissance

Reconnaissance patrols were much restricted owing to low visibility.

Mining

Magnetic mines exploded

Off N. Foreland, 51° 24.2'N, 1° 36.8'E.
Firth of Forth, 56° 05'N, 2° 56.6'E.
Liverpool Bay, 53° 38'N, 3° 26'W.
(F.O. Humber 0858/10)
By D.W.I. 10/3 2 cables 270° from wreck of DUNBAR CASTLE (C-in-C Nore 2230/10)

Unexplained Explosion

Heard 1220 in N.E. direction. Confirmed by WINTERTON (F.O.I/C Harwich 1220/10)

Shipping

Convoys Positions

D.C. 2014/10)

SLF 22 Route (C-in-C W.A. 0951/10)

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

Flag of B.C.1. to be transferred to RENOWN at sunset 11/3 (C-in-C H.F. 1252/10)

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes	Trawlers
Faroes to Iceland	2 cruisers, 8 A.M.C.'s
Denmark Strait	3 A.M.C.'s

Proceed to operate in circular area centre 58° 45'N, 0° 0', radius 30 miles. Probability of U-boats passing through area within next few days. Air patrol L 5 will operate round the area (F.O.C.C.O.S. 1046/10 to GALLANT, GRIFFIN)

S/m's

0700 (R.A.(S) 1659/10, D.C. 2015/10)

Operations

ALTMARK

Director of Sandefjord Dock informed a ship-owner that feelers were made by Captain of the ALTMARK for repairing ship at Sandefjord. Refused to have any connection with the ship. (N.A. Oslo, 1530/9, recd. 0136/10)

B.O. Norwegian N.O. informs me ALTMARK has been towed into Sandefjord where he believes she is still (Consul Kristiansands 1100/10)

S/m on patrol

HELENE RUSSE (German) leaves Esbjerg tonight for Kristiansands South. Endeavour to intercept her outside territorial waters during dark hours tonight. (R.A.(S) 1911/10 to ORZEL)

Air

Navigation lights

From 1900/11 all friendly aircraft are to extinguish navigation lights when flying over North Sea east of 4° W, and north of Latitude of North Foreland. Aircraft should show navigation lights when crossing coast coming in from seaward. Fighters to be instructed to confirm recognition before attacking and to be warned that bombers

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked(Cont.)

HALIFAX
Sunk. Trawler, exploded a mine in her trawl at 1520 and sank after efforts to beach her had failed. Crew rescued. One man slightly injured. (N.O. I.C. Yarmouth 1130/12, F.O. I.C. Greenock 2234/12, C. in C. Rosyth 2031/12, 1849/12, F.O. I.C. Harwich 2021/12, F.O. Humber 1938/12, V.A. Dover 1901/12, F.O. I.C. Tyne 1814/12, N.O. I.C. Liverpool 1727/12). Sister ship IPSWICH Landed crew 9 at Lowestoft 12/3. (Press Assn.)
52°4' N. 1°59½' E. (M/S Summary 21).

S/ms. Reported. Estimated dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1201/11).

1080 700 ton. German S/M. 6 miles off Terschelling A.2. (N.A. Hague 1735/11).

1811 By D/F 57° N. 12° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1929/11).

1035 In VDSE course 210°, BIDEFORD, HEREWARD hunting. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1035/11, 1058/11, C. in C. W.A. 1220/11). Reported by Woody Point lookout. 1035 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1050/11).

1023 C.G. Ventnor reports p/s, 1 mile S. of pier steering W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1050/11).

S/ms. Attacked.

1215 By a/c in Schillig Roads. 4 bombs dropped. One and probably 2 bombs were seen to hit just ahead of S/ms conning tower. Pilot reports he saw both ends of S/m. sticking upwards with water covering central section. (H.Q. Bomber Cmd. 1700/11). Later in the day there were indications of enemy activity near the position of the attack. (D.C.N.S. 190.).

By FOLKESTONE on contact after 2 tracks likely torpedoes passed convoy 114° Holy I. 4. (FOLKESTONE 2001/11, 0044/12). Asking for further report of his 2001/11 (N.O. I.C. Greenock 0335/12).

My 1050. Thick fog. Hunt abandoned. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1846/11).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

NIRITOS.
damaged.

Greek, 3854 tons, S.O.S. 1105 51°25' N. 1°45' E. struck mine in swept channel. (N. Foreland Radio 1225/11 intercept 1110 from NIRITOS). Crew in life-boats trying to board still floating ship. (KIRKPLEIN 1131/11 near NIRITOS). Two other ships standing by. I am again on board, mine apparently magnetic. No. 1 hold flooded. I am trying to reach Thames on own efforts. (NIRITOS 1132/11). Asking KIRKPLEIN to stand by, cannot ascertain yet whether possible to beach her (KIRKPLEIN 1137/11, all via N. Foreland Radio 1305/11). Try sent from Ramsgate. Northbound traffic from Downs stopped and southbound traffic diverted from position X. to Southend. (C. in C. Nore 1301/11). Anchored in Downs, apparently in no immediate danger of sinking. (V.A. Dover 2205/11). She was not in convoy. (D.C.N.S.190.) Beached at Deal. (D.C. 2045/11). Salvage Officer considers NIRITOS blown up by magnetic mine. (W.S.G. 25, 19/3).

AMOR
Sunk.

Dutch, 2325 tons, mined or torpedoed 1030 51°24' N. 2°9' E. approx. Have on board full crew. (CITY OF BREMEN 1333/11 via N. Foreland Radio 1450/11). CITY OF BREMEN proceeding Antwerp (V.A. Dover 1631/11). She was not in convoy. (D.C.N.S. 190). Considered probable ship was torpedoed. (D.S.13/3) Master of CITY OF BREMEN, reporting sinking, states ship sank in 10 minutes. He was distant 049° ¼ mile and concussion seemed very slight. (N.C.S.O. Antwerp 1257/12).

EULOTA
Sunk.

Dutch motor tanker (6236 tons). C. in C. W.A. 1313 (U-Boat report) Boat located with help of French a/c 170 R.M.K.Q. 19 at 1614. Crew of 42 on board WILD SWAN. No casualties. EULOTA was struck at 0145 but nothing seen. She hit something at 0215. Boarded again at 0730 but attempt to right ship failed. Curacoa from Rotterdam in ballast. Bow still afloat and intend to sink by gunfire. Position 48°35' N. 8°22' W. BROKE, WILD SWAN ordered to position (1313/11) hunting. FRONDEUR, CAPRICIEUSE proceeded to position from Brest p.m./11. BROKE reports EULOTA was torpedoed. (C. in C. W.A. 2319/11, 2244/11, BROKE 0131/12). She was not in convoy. (D.C.N.S. 190.).

HALIFAX ...

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

South Atlantic.

LAHN
ANATOLIA.
NIENBURG.

Has berthed in Buenos Aires sock in same basin as ANATOLIA and NIENBURG. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1812/11).

China.

Ships preparing to leave.

Consul Sourabaya reports many indications, value varying from B2 to C3, all German ships in N.E.I. preparing for concerted departure towards end March. Negotiations for necessary coal in hand, but delivery held up till attachments lifted. (C. of I.S. Far East 0856 Z/11.)

U-BOAT ...

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

SANTOS. Arrived Haugesund 10/ likely to proceed south to-night (D.D.I.C. 1755/11 to V.A.(S) and s/ms. on patrol) Arrived here 10/3. Anchored now in fairway. (Haugesund 1230/11).

HEDDERHEIM. }
2 Unknown. } In ballast 62°40' N. 6°30' E. 1850/10 bound northward (N.C.S.O. Aalsund 1400/11).

LIPPE Sailed p.m. 11/3 loaded with ore. (Gibbs, Narvik 1203/12).

America and West Indies.

ESTE Is at Curacoa. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1615/11).

HANNOVER. Members of crew when first interviewed by local press said interception took place 40 miles from Dominican coast and they had been rowing nearly 2 days but I have reason to believe German Minister trying to persuade Dominican Govt. it took place within territorial waters. (Mr. Paterson, Cuidad Trijillo 22 11/3 to F.O.)

South ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

SAN RICARDO renamed MARXO. — Mexican tanker which arrived suspiciously light at New York has been examined. The suggestion was that she had been fuelling U-Boats, but the evidence that she encountered very heavy weather is such as to prove her bona fides, even though the unusual quantity of 1665 tons of fuel were jettisones. (N.C.S.O. New York 1337/11).

Neutrality Laws. — Resolution of Neutrality Commission dated 2/2 and now published in Press re upholding neutrality of ports and waters by neutral states. (Sir G.Kuox, Petropolis No. 5 SAVING 2/3 recd. 11/3 to F.O.)

Australia.

CERES. COLOMBO. — C. in C. Med. 1733/9. Owing to commitments US 2 and US 3 propose both ships proceed to Freemantle from Singapore, calls at N. Australian ports being cancelled. (Australian C'wealth Naval Board 0616/11).

GERMAN ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Positions. 1200/11. (D.C. 0150/11).

Mediterranean.

GUNTHER. Has arrived at Constanza and has been joined by second ship of same type. (A.N.A. Bucharest 1655/11).

British Ships in Black Sea. British ships entering Black Sea should be warned not to reply to W/T messages asking for their position in Black Sea. (A.N.A. Bucharest 1655/11).

Turkish and Greek Ships held up by Russians. and escorted to Sevastopol. Turkish General Staff state there is no truth in these reports. (D.N.I. 2012/10, N.A. Angora 1851/11).

East Indies.

HUNTLEY and minesweepers. 225/A.M. ref. 1332/9 and C. in C. China 0300/10.
(1) N.O. I.C. Aden is to sail HUNTLEY as soon as possible for Suez to come under orders of C. in C. Mediterranean.

(2) Intend to allocate one of 5 twin screw Minesweepers from Singapore to replace HUNTLEY at Aden about 8/4, remainder to proceed to Med. WIDNES will be retained at Colombo. (C. in C. E.I. 0721 Z/11.).

Re-coaling the 5 minesweepers on passage. (C. in C. E.I. 0015 Z/11).

America ...

War Diary.

11.3.40.
Monday.

HOME and ABROAD.

Removal of Germans from U.S. Ships.

Until further orders no Germans are to be removed from U.S.A ships except those calling voluntarily at British ports or diverted to a Contraband Control Base. (Hd. of M. 1836/11, 1153/12).

FOREIGN ...

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

O.A. BRODIN.	Swedish, 1960 tons, ashore 2 miles N. St. Bees Hd. Leaking badly. (O.A. BRODIN 0511/11). WANDERER proceeding to assist. (WANDERER 0552/11, 0808/11). Visibility 1 cable, speed reduced to 15 knts. Should reach vicinity about 1000. (WANDERED 0800/11). Reached Whitehaven, Cumberland 13/3.
KELLY	Will be sent to Blackwall. Date will be signalled later. (C. in C. H.F. 1437/11).
AKELD	British 634 tons, left Rotterdam 9/3 for Downs, has not yet arrived. ? is she the wreck reported from Flushing 51°43'30" N. 3°15' E. about 5 miles from where S.S. BORTHWICK was sunk. See U-Boat Campaign 10/3.
CLAN STUART	In collision with unknown vessel. Sunk. French trawler NOTRE DAME DE MONTPIGEON saved all crew. 18 miles S.E. of Start. (CLAN STUART 1803/11, C. in C. W.A. 0044/12). Fog prevented sending tugs. (C. in C. W.A. 1859/11). (Lands End Radio 2128/11, 2020/11, C. in C. Portsmouth 2023/11, VETERAN 2225/11). Survivors landed Plymouth 12/3. Other ship was ORLOCK HEAD, Liverpool to Rouen. Damage not known. (C. in C. W.A. 1330/12, B.C. Rouen 1491/14).
JOSE DE LARRINAGA	Stranded in Bristol Channel 2220 in fog. (Burnham on Sea Radio 1121/11) intercept from J.D. LARRINAGA 2213 G.M.T., 2358/11).
VETERAN	In collision with HORN SHELL 176° Start Pt. 10 miles while looking for CLAN STUART. No casualties. Stern damaged. Can steam 12 knots.
HORN SHELL	HORN SHELL leaking slightly proceeding Falmouth (VETERAN 2000/11, 2225/11, C. in C. W.A. 1204/12.
H.M.T.HAWTHORN.) S.S. SPEY.)	In collision off Scurdyness. (C. in C. Rosyth 1023/14).

Foreign Stations.

EFFINGHAM	Adty. 1350/26/1. Provisional programme arrive Halifax 25/4. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1637/11).
ARIADNE MILLER	Went ashore on passage from Wanchort to Shanghai. Refloated and proceeded. (B.U.P.)

HOME ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Treatment of Neutrals. German legation, Oslo, stated that according to German Prize Regulations all neutral ships in convoy assume the risks of war at sea, similarly all neutrals protected by belligerent a/cs. Unconvoyed neutrals sailing together or alone considered as neutrals by German Naval vessels inspecting for contraband. Such ships must not be armed and it must be clear from conduct and appearance that shipsis neutral, manoeuvring such as zig-zagging must not be indulged in. Neutrals endanger themselves if blacked out or use radio when called on to stop. The statement published abroad, that a neutral ship which has once accepted convoy is considered enemy henceforth is denied. (Press).

UNITY, Patrol Report. Three darkened vessels sighted, may have been destroyers, 2200/7 23 miles W. Hantsholm, steering northwards slow speed. Attack not possible. UNITY dived. Apparently unobserved. (V.A.S. 1739/11).

Minesweepers. Dutch ships arriving Amsterdam 11/3 report minesweepers active South of North Hinder. B.1.

Minefield. Amsterdam reports minefield 51°30' N. 2°10' A.1.

Small Craft. Large number of torpedo craft and seaplanes reported near Moderne Gap and Juist, 10/3. B.1. (N.A. Hague 2320/11).

Munition Ships. Dormer, Oslo 1500/11 see 9/3.

FINNO-RUSSIAN HOSTILITIES.

The Press reports from Comstanza that Soviet destroyers have been intercepting neutral merchant vessels and taking them to Sevastopol, are without foundation. (N.I.D. XI).

CASUALTIES ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping (Cont.)

Routes. For neutral vessels sailing independently (D.T.D. 1209/11).

For ships entering Firth of Forth independently from North bound for Methil. Details wanted. (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1313/11). Reply: see 588 QZ (D.T.D. 1453/12).

Italian Coal. 13 ships in British Contraband Control, carrying German coal to Italy, ordered to be released.

Times of release. All sailed between 0600 - 0800/11 (Ramsgate 0924/11).

Miscellaneous.

WOLFE C. in C. H.F. 0046/11, see 10/3.

Suspicious Vessels. Your 2329 - French fishing boat. Appeared genuine. (WINCHELSEA 0515/11, 0759/11 yo C. in C. W.A.).

LENA. Charts ordered for. Ship unknown. Please enquire and report. (D.N.I. 1605/11 to A.N.A. Stockholm).

WOLFE's delayed report. C. in C. H.F. 0046/11, WOLFE 0748/11, 0745/11, A.C.O.S. 1121/11, V.A.N.P. 0149/11, see 10/3.

WEATHER.

0500	Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea.	Westerly. Strong in N. Light in S.	Moderate.
Channel.	S.W. light or moderate.	Moderate.
W.Approaches.	S. Moderate.	Moderate.
Horns Reef.	S.W. Moderate.	Good.

Outlook - Similar.

Enemy ...

War Diary. 11.3.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

HN 18. Halfway between Norway and Shetlands, escorted by 5 destroyers and an A/A cruiser, covered by EDINBURGH and ARETHUSA.

OHN 19. Cover will be provided by EDINBURGH (C. in C. H.F. 2012/11). Additional escort FAULKNOR, FORTUNE (C. in C. H.F. 1523/11).

HGF 23 R.V. 0645/23. (F.O.C. N.A. 0950/11).

ON May neutral ships brought into Kirkwall by Northern Patrol and released there join up with Kirkwall section of ON convoys if they wish? (V.A.N.P. 1100/11.). Reply: Yes. (A.C.N.S. 1211/12).

Ocean. Positions. (D.C. 1910/11).

HX 24 French C. in C. Dunkirk will provide escort 16/3 for ships bound Havre. (D.T.D. 1537/11).

HX 26 Sailing telegram. (D.T.D. 1334/11).

AF Message. 48°35' N. 8°22' W. 1000 G.M.T./11. (D.D.I.C. 1606/11). (EULOTA).

Routeing Neutrals. Your 1901/9 is it intended that neutral ships sailing from Norwegian ports independently to an east coast port in U.K. should be routed to the Downs. (Stavanger 1950/11 to Adty.).

Reporting Convoys. System to be standardised as follows. Method. When report is made by escort consideration should be given to desirability of parting company temporarily prior to breaking W/T silence. (D.T.D. 1801/11).

Routes ...

11.3.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sweeping Reports. One mine exploded by skids in Cockle Channel (F.O. I.C. Nore 1932/11).

Fog, no sweeping. (N.O. I.C. Falmouth 1825/11).

Mine exploded by skid 73° Inchkeith 6 miles, all traffic between Fidra and Inchkeith is to cease until further orders. (C. in C. Rosyth 1819/11, 1843/11). Traffic resumed in accordance with QZ 588 (C. in C. Rosyth 2217/11).

Mine exploded by skid 2 cables 145° from North Caister Buoy 1336/11. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1630/11).

Fog, no sweeping. (SANDWICH 1825/11).

Unidentified Explosions. Off Newhaven 1825. Am of opinion drifting mine struck but no proof. (N.O. I.C. Newhaven 1920/11).

Swept Channel Closed. Off N. Foreland. See NIRITOS mined.

Shipping. ...

War Diary. 11.3.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Enemy Air Activity. 2 a/cs. unknown, bearing 180° 1 mile course 270°, my position 200° Orfordness 10 miles. (N.G. Call sign, Block One 0720/11).

At 0034 an a/c (believed to be enemy) was reported 8 miles N.W. of Duncansby Head, and at 0500 a/cs. were heard over Scapa. It is thought that possibly mines may have been laid, but there is as yet no confirmation of this. (I.C. 0386/40).

Air Reconnaissance. Of position where U-Boat was bombed by Blenheim 4/3. No salvage operations taking place but observed 4 buoys disposed in a square. (HQ Bomber Cmd. 1700/11).

Of Heligoland Bight and Estuaries. Patrol vessels or mine-sweepers seen. (HQ Bomber Cmd. 1800/11). Tried to sink a derelict dangerous to navigation by 4 bombs; failed to hit. (HQ Bomber Cmd. 2230/11).

Ships firing at a/cs. Submit any a/c which dives on a ship or comes within range of short range A/A weapons of ships without being recognised or identifying itself can be fired on. (R.N.A.S. 1836/11).

Navigation Lights. Ref. Adty. 2116/8. Orders issued by Adty, in sense of Air Min. 2242/10. (A.C.N.S. 1642/11).

Aerodrome Lights. In view of difficulty of flying modern a/cs in darkness lights at and near aerodromes to be as required by a/cs and not limited by considerations of enemy air attack on aerodrome. (Air Min. 1912/11).

Mining ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Home Fleet. All capital ships are in harbour.

2nd C.S. Flag of R.A. 2 C.S. to be transferred to GALATEA at 1600/11. (R.A. 2 C.S. 0956/11).

B.C.S. Flag of V.A.C. B.C.S. transferred from HOOD to RENOWN at sunset 11/3. (C. in C. H.F. 1252/10).

Northern Patrol.	Orkneys to Faroes	Trawlers
	Faroes to Iceland	2 Cruisers, 8 A.M.Cs.
	Denmark Strait	3 A.M.Cs.

S/ms. Positions 0700/12. (D.C. 1911/11, 1732/11).

Western Approaches. Dispositions of A/S and M/S craft 11/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1859/11).

Cruiser off Petsamo. British cruiser and 2 destroyers reported lying off Petsamo. Cruiser appears to have been converted into a/c depot ship. (Reuter Stockholm).

Operations.

ALTMARK Norwegian Govt. are in communication with German Govt. as regards length of stay of ALTMARK in Norwegian waters. Ship entered Sandesfjord at 14 knots steering by screws. (N.A. Oslo 1400/11). Manager Akers Gottksted has informed commercial councillor he had been approached as regards repairing ALTMARK and had refused to do so. (N.A. Oslo 1510/11).

Air ...

War Diary.

12. 3.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/ms. Attacked.

0840. By a/c LMJT 3728. Estimate no hits. Have lost touch with s/m. (Duty U.269 Sqn. 0840/12). Contact doubtful. (Duty U 269 Sqn. 0840/12, 0900/12). Fleeting glimpse only. Enemy course is 045° uncertain. (Duty U 269 Sqn. 0953/12).

By VENETIA 48°10' N. 9°14' W. Attack on doubtful contact. (I.C. 0388/40).

War Diary.

12.3.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

GARDENIA 0530 sunk — British (3745 tons) not in convoy was mined and sunk in the searched channel north of Cromer Knoll, 53°4' N. 1°33' E. (?). Ship sank in 10 minutes. Ship was escorted by trawler VIVIANA which picked up all crew 33. (I.C. 0389/140).

ROSE EFFEUILLEE — French tanker, mined and sunk. Crew of five, two of them wounded by explosion, picked up. (D.S.).

S/ms. Reported.

Estimated dispositions. — (D.D.I.C. 1146/12).

1900 — By a/c 120° Copinsay 15 miles. (Base Scapa 1928/12).

2016 — 52° N. 13° W. Position indefinite. (I.C. 0388/40).

0044 — Your 0044/12. Contact is in position known non-sub. You should proceed in accordance with C. in C. W.A's. 1143/9. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0751/12 to FOLKESTONE).

French N.A. informs me he has received information from an officer in Defence Dept. that there are 6 German submarines in Motovski Gulf, Biskra Peninsula. (Oslo 1730/12).

S/ms. ...

War Diary.

12.3.40.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

BOCHUM — Left Kristiandsands South 0900/12 in ballast. Destination not known but rumoured Narvik. (V.C. Krisiansands 1155/12). V.A.S. informed (D.D.I.C. 1538/12).

SANTOS — Left Haugesund this morning south bound (D.D.I.C. 1538/12 to V.A. (S) and s/ms. on patrol. (Haugesund 1130/12).

LIPPE — Sailed Narvik p.m./11 loaded with ore. (D.D.I.C. 1719/12).

KÖNIGSBERG
PREUSSEN — Sailed in ballast (Gothenburg 1730/12). After discharging coal.

AJAX.
ELECTRA. — Arrived with coal (dO.)

KALMAR.
NORDMARK.
SONNENFELDE. — At Haugesund to load herrings. (Haugesund 1130/12).

KONSUL K FISSER — Arrived Narvik 12/3 (N.I.D. 1/57).

FRIGGA
FESCHENHEIM — In collision at Haugesund. Iron ore ships, believed bound for Narvik. (N.I.D. 1/57).

America and West Indies.

ESTE — Curacoa reports has 100 tons bunkers A.1. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1428/12).

PATRICIA — Painted silver grey. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1428/12).

U-Boat ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

AQUITANIA — Your 0701/8. Draught of AQUITANIA can be restricted to 34 feet at Colombo so that she can be bunkered and watered there.

QUEEN MARY — Draught of QUEEN MARY cannot be reduced below 36 feet so that special arrangements for fuel and water will be necessary. (D. of S.T. 1201/12 to C. in C., E.I.).

China.

SUFFREN — Will leave Saigon 1/4 to continue duty under C. in C. E.I. (L.O. Saion 0245 Z/12).

Patrol. — LIVERPOOL reports has shifted patrol to eastward owing to presence of Japanese a/cs. (C. in C. China 1021 Z/12 to Ambassador, Tokyo re C. in C. China 0030/3).

SAIGON MARU, BANGKOK MARU, mails seizure. — Japanese liner SAIGON MARU visited by French authorities at Saigon and mails confiscated, according to information reaching owners and quoted by Domei Agency. Japanese liner BANGKOK MARU boarded by French naval and water police at Hai-phong, French Indo-China, on 7/3 and mails addressed to Germany removed. (Reuter Tokyo 13/3).

GERMAN ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French positions. 1200/12. (D.C. 0022/12).

Ships Routed. Average number of merchant ships routed per week 16.5 (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1745/12).

Positions. Of convoys, AQUITANIA etc. (D.C. 1815/12).

Mediterranean.

DRAGON — To join 3rd C.S. (C. in C. Med. 1356/12).

Areas of U-Boat Attack. Your 0913/11. Admty. message A.G. defines areas in which Admiralty considers U-Boat attack likely at present. D.M.S., part 1, article 23, is in abeyance in other areas, but C. in Cs. have discretion to issue additional instructions re zigzagging on their own stations. (A.C.N.S. to C. in C. Med., 2024/12).

America and West Indies.

ENTERPRISE — Your 1718/19/2. Admty. desire arrangements made for refit of ENTERPRISE at Halifax, date to be arranged with R.A. 3 B.S. (D. of D. to C.N.S. Ottawa 0049/12).

MAURETANIA — To leave New York 20/3 for Wellington via Colon, Balbao and Honolulu. Not armed. No passengers will be on board. (D. of S.T. 1202/12).

AORANGI, suspected sabotage. — Your 0544 Z/12. Consul-General, San Francisco, reports evidence of plot is accumulating and situation may be very dangerous here although we think no danger to AORANGI sailing to Sydney tomorrow. Suggest Australian authorities be warned take all precautions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to Australian Naval Board 1656/12).

QUEEN MARY — To leave New York for Sydney 20/3. Itinerary. Not armed. No passengers will be on board. (D.S.T. 1203/12).

East ...

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

H.M.S. WREN — In collision with S.S. LACKLAN 180° Lizard 16 miles. Stern damaged, not making water. No injuries. Am returning to Plymouth, LACKLAN returning Falmouth (WREN 0737/12). Requires 5 weeks' repairs. (C. in C. W.A. 1204/12).

CASTLEMOOR — British, 6574 tons, Halifax (N.S.) 16/3 for Tees in Convoy HX 20, from which she became detached in bad weather, is now 7 days overdue.

WOLSEY — Grounded proceeding alongside an oiler in Firth of Forth and was slightly damaged.

EDINBURGH — Defects appeared. Ship must be withdrawn from present duties on completion of escorting convoys OHN 19. (C. in C. H.F. 1657/12).

NEWCASTLE — Admty. 1150/6. Consider 7 weeks should suffice to make good defects and that work on alterations and additions should be limited to that period. (F.O. 18 C.S. 1401/12).

VECHT — Dutch. Left Rotterdam 6/3 for Lobito. Reported in Press missing, believed mined off Dutch coast. Position believed to be 51°30' N. 2°10' E. QZ area declared. (I.C. 0391/40).

HALIFAX — See mining.

Foreign Stations.

S.S. EMPIRE STAR. Delayed by collision in Sydney harbour 7/3. (D.N.I. Melbourne 0751 Z/12).

PHILOPTIS — British. Aground in Olhao harbour. (Daily Telegraph, Lisbon).

S.S. VENETIA — In difficulty 400 miles S.E.E. of Martinique. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1636/12).

FOREIGN ...

War Diary. 12.3.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Minefields. According to press reports from Denmark the movement of ice following the present thaw has caused a number of mines in minefield in southern part of Little Belt to explode. The explosions are heard along the coast as far as Middlefast at the extreme north of the Little Belt.

Ice Report. Sylt clear of ice. Elbe still difficult for merchant ships (Consul Esbjerg 2330/2).

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping(Cont.)

Norwegian Route. Route followed by Norwegian owners for ships bound to and from Holland and Belgium. Outward course passes through minefield mentioned in QZ 475 and of which it is believed Norwegian Admiralty received notice from German Govt. (Oslo 1430/12).

Contraband Control. Cancel Admty. letter M/E.W.D./378/40 of 4/3/40. Instructions re cargo loaded in British Empire. Cargo loaded in Canada, Eire, Egypt, Sudan and Iraq other than cargo covered by Navicerts issued at Alexandria or Port Sudan to be treated as though coming from a neutral country. (D.E.W.D. 1301/12).

Shipping from Belgian ports. Is reported to be all held up on account of QZ 593 and 594 (? 595). (I.C. 0388/40).

WEATHER.

0500.		Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea.	N.	N.W. Light	Good
North Sea.	S.	S.W. Moderate	Moderate
Horns Reef.		W. Moderate	Fog
Channel and Western Approaches.		S. Moderate	Moderate. Fog patches.

Outlook: Little change.

Ice Report: V.A.N.P. 1545/12.

Enemy ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (Cont.).

Minelaying N.E. of Kinnaird Hd. in British mined area.

150 mines laid in position 34 swept up. Have cancelled operation. (TEVIOT BANK, 0830/12). Hope it is certain mines not swept up took the correct depth and no further sweeping required. (C. in C. Rosyth 1445/12). Report whether mines were surface failures, if not, check depth reels on remaining mines. (D.D.O.D. (M) 1540/12).

QZ 586

Anxious and consider it most necessary to clear QZ 586 of magnetic mines as soon as possible. Request priority be given to this command in allocation of latest magnetic mine clearance vessels. (C. in C. Rosyth 1507/12).

Shipping.

Routes.

Ships whose draught permits proceeding to Dutch ports north of Flushing from Thames and Downs are, for the present, to be routed through the Wielingen Channel to Flushing etc. Deep draught ships to be routed etc. Westbound vice versa (A.C.N.S. 0025/12).

Hd. of M. 1153/12. See 1143.

Convoys.

Newport Fast. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1015/12).

HX 24. Meet. (C. in C. W.A. 1123/12 to VERSATILE, WALPOLE, WOLVERINE, WAKEFUL).

Ocean. Situation 2000/12 B.S.T. (C. in C. W.A. 1310/12).

HG 23. Route (D.T.D. 1843/12).

HG 22. Sailing telegram (F.O.C.N.A. 1730/12).

Norwegian ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Firth of Forth A/A Defences. Considered most desirable that immediate temporary increase be made in A/A defences of Firth of Forth area. Requested transfer of 3.7" mobile A/A guns from Clyde area, and for skeleton balloon barrage at present flying to be augmented by all available balloons. (C. in C. Rosyth 1751/12). Reply see 13/3.

Aircraft in Bridlington Bay. Observer Corps and Coastguard report that between 1920 and 1945 to-day aircraft believed hostile seen in Bridlington Bay flying very low close inshore, apparently both sea and land planes. Not observed to drop mines. Visibility bad. (C. in C. Rosyth 2045/12).

Between 1940 and 2000 4 or 5 enemy a/cs were off Flamborough Head area believed to be minelaying. (D.C.N.S. 191).

Air Reconnaissance. A long-distance reconnaissance a/c proceeded to East of Iceland to follow up WOLFE's report of a possible enemy convoy proceeding to the eastward, but sighted nothing except one Norwegian merchant ship.

Two Blenheim a/cs from Bomber Command carried out a reconnaissance in Heligoland Bight but saw nothing except some minor warships and merchant ships. (Bomber Cmd. 2145/12).

Mining.

Mines Exploded. Mine sweepers ahead of Convoy FS 19 exploded 2 mines N.W. of Cromer Knoll. (F.O. Humber 1938/12).

Sweeping Reports. 6 mines swept up in North Goodwin area close to position where NIRITOS was mined 11/3 (D.C.N.S. 191) I.C. 0388/40 says 8 mines.

Steam trawler HALIFAX exploded a mine in her trawl at 1520/11 and sank. Crew rescued; one man injured slightly. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1130/12).

F.O.I.C. Greenock 2234/12, C. in C. Rosyth 2031/12, 1844/12, F.O.I.C. Harwich 2021/12, F.O. Humber 1938/12, V.A. Dover 1901/12, F.O.I.C. Tyne 1814/12, N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1727/12.

Minelaying ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Home Fleet.

HOOD. If HOOD can be escorted by H.F. destroyers to Clyde, arriving 15/3, can you provide onward escort to Portsmouth. (C. in C. H.F. 1447/12 to C. in C. W.A.) C. in C. H.F. 1447/12 owing to shortage of destroyer escorts considered that HOOD should proceed direct to Malta, being routed well to westward and proceeding unescorted when clear of submarine zone until met by destroyers from Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(H) 2216/12).

Cover for ON Convoys. Cruiser cover for OHN Convoys to be provided by one ship of 18 C.S. until further orders. For ON 20 sailing from Methil 15/3 no objection to SHEFFIELD being detailed. (C. in C. H.F. 1746/12).

Cruisers for Rosyth. BERWICK, NORFOLK and YORK to proceed to Rosyth to arrive not later than 1600 to-morrow, Wednesday. (D.O.D.(H) 1601/12).

ARK ROYAL. Under consideration for her to proceed to Mediterranean for one or two months' intensive training. If you concur should she sail when ready for sea about 15/2 or remain in Home Waters until GLORIOUS can relieve her about 20/4 after returning home and giving leave. (1st S.L. 0030/12).

S/ms. Disposition 0700/13 (R.A.(S) 2049/12, D.C. 2226/12). Orders for patrol (R.A.(S) 1822/12).

Air ...

War Diary

13. 3. 40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

CHETIGE sunk — Greek 2700 tons. Reported by B.B.C. overseas Intelligence sunk in North Sea date and place not known. (Minesweeping Summary 21).

Submarines reported

Estimated U/boat dispositions (D.C. 1207/13).

1100 — French report of enemy submarine in 49:52 N., 02:09 W., about 17 miles S.S.E. from Portland. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2202/13).

2015 — 57° N., 1° to 2° E., position indefinite.

2109 — 52° N., 14° W., 283° Fastnet 166', position indefinite D.F. (D.C., 2159/13) (C. in C., W.A., 2301/13).

1130 — 49:52 N., 2:09 W., 315° Cape La Hague, 12' submarine course 022° reported by French. (I.C., 0389/40) (C. in C., 1st Region, Chasbourg, 2140/13).

War Diary

13. 3. 40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ESCHERSHEIM wrecked

Sinking at 1147 2 miles R.W. 96 deg. off Hiotshals N. coast of Jutland, 57:36 N., 09:57 E., 2 salvage steamers proceeding. (ESCHERSHEIM, 1147/13) (Blaavand Radio 1239/13, 1520/13, 1554/13) Crew took to boats and apparently picked up by lifeboat. Ship was known to have been loading at Brake, near Bremerhaven on 9/3. Cargo of coal for Norway. (D.C.N.S. and B.U.P.) (R.A.(S) 1653/13) (I.C. 0389/40).

LA CORUNA scuttled

7414 tons. Intercepted by A.M.C. MALOJA south of Iceland, 64° N. 11° W. approx. at 0426. Scuttled herself and crew picked up by MALOJA was disguised as the Japanese TAKI MARU. Sailed on Feb. 3 from Rio de Janeiro. (MALOJA, 1208/13, V.A.N.P., 1511/13, MALOJA, 1555/13, 0250/14). 10 officers 50 men saved. Ship on fire, finished off with gunfire. (I.C. 0389/40).
German ship believed LA CORUNA made urgent signals to all other German ships at sea 1439 G.M.T. reporting A.M.C. S.E. of Iceland. (D.D.I.C. 1752/13 to C. in C. H.F., V.A.N.P., MALOJA.) What frequency? (C. in C. H.F. 2240/13).

MARTIMAS STINNES

Arrived Gothenburg with coal (Gothenburg 1235/13).

KONSUL CARL FISSER

Loaded ore at Narvik and ready to sail (Narvik, 1640/13).

ALTONA

Reported arriving Copenhagen 0800/14. (I.C., 0389/40).

FRIGGA) FECHENHEIM)

FRIGGA, due Haugesund 14/3 for Kopervik, where she and FECHENHEIM collided night of 13/3 whilst at anchor. FECHENHEIM said to have lost both anchors. FRIGGA damage estimated £800, both to be repaired here. (Haugesund 1845/14).

HANNOVER

Arrived Kingston, Jamaica, towed by DUNEDIN. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1100/13).

SEATTLE

Reported sighted off coast of Venezuela. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1953/13).

MIMI HORN

Reported seen near Northern Point of Cariaco Peninsula. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1925/13) Request source of information in view of PENZANCE's recent investigation of this area. Martinique requested to investigate by aircraft again. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2330/13.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Hong Kong Shipbuilding

My 1235/31/10/39 and Admiralty 1400/7/12/39 hoped to build two "Bangor" class minesweepers and 4 to 6 small defence vessels with the 5-million Hong Kong dollar appropriation which the Hong Kong Legislative Council has placed at disposal of Imperial Govt. for shipbuilding. (C. in C., China, 1224/13).

Japanese Shipping, alleged interference

PANKMA MARU and YOSHU MARU challenged by searchlight from British men-of-war E. of Cape Erimo, Hokkaido, on March 8/9. Japanese aircraft also observed gun flash and smoke from (?) Cruiser about noon 10/3 in position 50 miles 145° from Cape Erimo. Ministry of Marine draw attention to undesirability of re-arousing public feeling displayed over ASAMA MARU incident and advise greater caution. Your 0030Z/3, Ambassador hopes your instructions to keep 100 miles from Japanese Coast will be rigidly observed. (N.A. Tokyo to C. in C., China, 1901/13).

Avoiding Japanese Coast

As far as is practicable you should comply with last sentence N.A. Tokyo's 1901/13 (keeping of 100 miles off coast of Japan). (C. in C., China, 1545/13, to LIVERPOOL, KANIMBLA, MORETON BAY).

Australia

RAMILLIES

On arrival at Sydney to be at 14 days' notice which will decrease by one day for each day of refit (Austr. C'wealth, N.B. 0709Z/13).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies.

HX 20 — Ships much scattered. Those in company were 56 hours late at R.N. Exceptionally bad weather and several cases of damage on that account. One ship damaged by floating mine while in company. CASTLEMOOR which lost convoy is overdue. (D.T.D. 1151/13).

Mediterranean.

French Warships — Movements. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 0942/13).

S.S.COLOMBO Mail — Your ARFAR No. 24 of 13/11. Was any mail removed from Italian S.S. COLOMBO and examined on that occasion. (D.E.W.D. 1507/13 to C.C.S.O., Haifa).

Boarding Greek Waters — Complaint received that Italian ships intercepted and boarded in Greek territorial waters. Jan. 4, PAOLA Z. PODESTA, Jan. 7 LERO, Feb. 4, ZARA, Feb. 6, BRIONI. Request report. (D.E.W.D., 2058/13). Reply. P.2. PODESTA boarded by CHAKIA 3½ miles from nearest land, LERO by CALEDON 4 miles, ZARA by CALEDON 4½ miles, BRIONI by CAPETOWN 5 miles (C. in C. Med. 1134/15).

Copper at Malta — Admiralty. 2144/10 and N.A. Rome's 1254/11. Details of copper available at Malta shipped by Copper Export Association of America in Italian S.S. BARBARIGO consigned to Trieste for Felton Guillaume of Budapest. F.O. telegram 1829/24/1/40, ARFAR 39,123 566 to Ambassador, Rome, refers. (C. in C. Med., 1901/13).

Palestine-Yugoslav Shipping — Formation of Company pending between Palestine Lighterage Company and Yougoslavia Zetzka Company whereby latter offered £10,000 by former for Partnership for coastal traffic under Palestine flag. Prewar value was 20,000. Agent at Istanbul acting for German Govt. offered £44,000 so that vessels can operate on Danube. £10,000 invested by British Govt. in this company would stop this. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1300/12, C. in C., Med., 1743/13).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic & Mediterranean

Hospital Ships — My 1701/18/2 and C. in C. Med. 1349/21/2 conveyance in Hospital ships may be permitted in case of sick personnel of those R.F.A.'s which are regularly attendant on the Fleet (D. of S.T. 2242/13).

North Atlantic

French Convoys — Positions (D.C. 0330/13).

South Atlantic

GRAF SPEE — Investigations by Mr. Bainbridge Bell completed and he is returning. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1739/13).

America & West Indies

German Merchant Ships, Callao — Your 1111/12, interception of German merchant ships off Callao. Should the matter come up again any notice that you require can be arranged. (D.N.I., 1853/13 to C. in C., A. & W.I.)

Mexican HIDALGO German Cargo — Your telegram 106/12/3 to S. of S. for Colonies. Mexican schooner HIDALGO believed loaded Cargo from German ship at Curacao about 24/2. Requested inquiry into origin and ownership of cargo, and vessel not allowed to leave Georgetown until instructions received from Admiralty. (C. in C. A.W.I. to Governor, British Guiana, 1200/13).

Suspicious Ship — S.O.I. Kingston's 1830/13, suspicious vessel in Turiamo on 9/3 has been investigated by PENZANCE and French sloop VILLE D'YS who report suspicious vessel painted white is U.S. surveying ship HANNIBAL. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2315/13).

Halifax Escort Force — My 2330/6 paras. vi, vii. British submarines will not normally form part of Halifax Escort Force but a submarine from time to time will be sent from U.K. to escort one convoy home. (D.O.D. (F) 1604/13 to R.A.(3), 1607 to V.A.(S).)

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

GUILLEMOT — In collision off Southwold with an unknown ship about 0300/13. WIDGEON is standing by her. Damaged described. Chatham, Sheerness cannot take in hand (C. in C. Nore, 1807/13). Arrived Harwich 1031/13 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1032/13).

TIBERTON — British 5225 tons 4 weeks overdue (Allied Newspapers)

BUIZERD — Dutch M.V. Capt. Roosienn went ashore at Kettleness near Whitby early am/13 and became total wreck. Crew rescued (Exchange Tel & Yorks. Evening Post).

WILHELMINE 79 — Fishing cutter. Missing since 3/3 (Danish Broadcast).

CHETIGE — Greek 2700 tons. Reported by B.B.C. overseas intelligence sunk in North Sea, date and position not known.

Foreign Stations

S.S.VENETIA — Tanker, British, 5728 tons. Tanker F.J.WOLFE transferred 68 tons oil fuel, towing her until she can raise steam and make St. Juan under own power (F.J.WOLFE 0100/13) (C. in C.,A. & W.I. 1503/13, 1523/13, 0201/14) See 12/3.

ROSSINGTON COURT sunk
ATHELVIKING damaged — British 6922 tons rammed and sunk by ATHEL VIKING, British tanker, 8779 tons, about 600 miles E. of Halifax. Both ships in Convoy HX 26 homeward bound. Crew saved. ATHELVIKING returning damaged to Halifax. (MALAYA, 1650Z/13). Admiralty 1841/14. ATHELVIKING became unmanageable about 0215 due to heavy wind and sea and went 42 degrees off course to port. Navigation lights switched on 0230, vessel brought back to course by using engine and swung 2½ points beyond by about 0240. Collision occurred at 0252 with ROSSINGTON COURT, latter being hit port side sbath funnel by ATHELVIKING's starboard bow and stem. ROSSINGTON COURT apparently steaming 046° without lights at time of impact. weather clear. (Capt., D.Y., Halifax, 1645/18, D.T.D. 1841/14 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. & A.C. 1010/15).

War Diary

13. 3. 40.
Wednesday

FINNO-RUSSIAN HOSTILITIES

Armistice signed

Military operations to cease at 12 o/clock noon, Leningrad time, 13/3. (Protocol, signed by Molotoff and Ryti, attached to peace treaty). Text of Peace Treaty - The Times 14/3).

War Diary

13. 3. 40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous.

Ice

Ice conditions improving slowly. Northern approach to Sound still difficult, Little Belt blocked. Great Belt and Falsterbo passages not possible till ice permits sweeping by minefields. Gedser Warne Munde Ferry not yet operating. (N.A. Copenhagen, 1815/13). Eastern Kattergat still blocked though Copenhagen can be reached with icebreakers. Great Belt open, but drift and fog render navigation difficult. (D.N.I. 1843/13).

Weather

0500		Wind	Visibility
North Sea	North	N.N.E. to N.E. Moderate	Moderate
"	South	S.W. Moderate	Poor
Hornes Reef		S.W. Moderate	Poor, coastal fog
Channel		S.W. Moderate	Moderate
W.Approaches		N.E. Light	Good

Enemy Intelligence

A. Thick ice outside Tallium but one narrow channel still open. B. No warships in Baltic Port or Hapsal. C. Many crates arrived at (?) Baltic port and Hapsal by rail last week believed to contain aerial torpedoes or mines, probably former. D. Aircraft on Osel only at Kuersaari. (E.No aircraft on Dago (Mily. Attache Helsinki for N.A. 1840/13).

Minefield off Rotterdam

My 1615/12 this report not now considered reliable. Minefield probably where VECHT sank. (N.A. Hague, 1830/13).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

C.C. System — A Norwegian newspaper criticises the British Contraband Control system on ground that it gives German Naval forces easy task because ships are being taken in large numbers to known localities.

Route — Ostend Radio announcement giving advice has to route to outgoing ships after passing danger zone in Wielingen Channel (N. Foreland Radio 1055/13).

Convoys

FN	Escort My 2104/8 delete WOLSEY (C. in C. Rosyth, 1538/12).
HG 22	Sailing telegram (C. in C. W.A. 1049/13).
HX 29	Route (D.T.D., 1051/13).
HN 18	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1123/13).
OB 109	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1459/13).
HG 21	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1619/13) (N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1142/13).
Ocean	Positions. (D.C. 2033/13).
HX 20	See A. & W.I.

Stern Lights — Senior Officer of escort has again reported on danger arising from stern lights being either too much too bright or so dim as to be of no help to next astern. (D.T.D., 1321/13).

"Consignee Mail" — United States ships will soon carry "Consignee Mail" in special pouches. Case to be taken to ensure speedy examination. (D.E.W.D. 1603/13).

Miscellaneous

Suspicious Vessels — My 1730/27/1 add Dutch DEO GLORIA, remove Danish STOCKHOLM from list (Hd. of M. 1835/13).

Lettered Co-ordinates — S.P.O. 2274/3 (Table of letered co-ordinates) will be brought into force 20/3 to replace S.P.O. 2274 (Hd. of M. 1335/13 "A" Message Home & Abroad.).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Danish Ship Routes — Admiralty 1730/27/1. Danish ship VIKING is at Frederickshaven awaiting route instructions to Firth of Forth. According to Danish law ships must cross North Sea in pairs except when passing north of latitude 061° N. Latter course impossible owing to shortage of bunkers. Request instructions whether she may be routed in company with another Danish ship. (Consul, Copenhagen. 1137/13). Reply: Yes. (D.T.D., 2003/13).

Suspicious Vessels — My 1730/27/1. Add Dutch DEO GLORIA, remove Danish STOCKHOLM. (Hd. of M., 1835/13).

Ships from Dutch ports — Admiralty 1730/12. Should ships bound for the Downs from here be detained until further instructions? (Consul-Gen., Amsterdam, 1240/13, repeated 2350/13 in response to request for verification). My 2350 refers to QZ messages 594, 337. (?130/14). (Reply 14/3).

Shipping from Belgian Ports — Your 2045/12. Shipping should not be held up but routed south of 585 QZ, north of 351 QZ, thence south of 593 QZ to position latitude 51° 19' N., 1° 42' E. thence to position 180° five cables North Goodwin L.V. (O.T.D. 1317/13 to Consul, Antwerp).

Belgian Fishing Vessels — Advantageous for Belgian fishing vessels to work in groups and avoid following areas (1) Area inside eastern side of our East coast barrage (2) Area covered by Dover Strait barrage and 15 miles to northward thereof (3) Area to westward of line joining Duncansby Head and Rattingray Head (D.N.I. 2002/13).

Scandinavian Ships — Copenhagen Foreign Office spokesman announced Danish application to England and Germany re safe-guarding of Danish shipping has been forwarded to London and Berlin. Applications are similar to those being presented by Sweden and Norway as a result of the Copenhagen Foreign Minister's meeting. Seek to terminate the torpedoing, mining, of Scandinavian ships as well as eliminating the dangers resulting to Scandinavian shipping by the result of British contraband control, and include request for a halt to mine laying or definite notifications of location of mines. (Press 2120/13).

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Bombing restrictions For 14/3 (V.A.S. 1831/13).

Scapa Defence Air Ministry's proposals (D. of L.D. 1236/13 to A.C.O.S.)

Air Operation Flak ships X450 13/3. Blenheim reconnaissance 12/3 established presence of Flak ships west of Heligoland. By employing cloud flying aircraft you should locate and destroy Flak ships in Heligoland Bight. (Air Min. 1503/13(G.M.T.) to Bomber Cmd.).

Operation Orders Amending Bomber Command exercise operation order No. EX 402 of 12th March, para. 6. (Bomber Command, 1700/13).

Mining

Sweeping reports

3 mines cut; position will be reported when confirmed (F.O. Humber 2003/13).

Skidsweep. One mine exploded 74° Elbow Buoy 1.62 miles. Second mine exploded 100 yds. N.E. of this position. Fog prevented Oropesa sweeping (V.A. Dover 1937/13).

Fog hampered sweeping (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1926/13).

War Channel, weather prevented completion. Invergordon nil, weather (C. in C. Rosyth 1901/13)

Exploded mine Saint Anthony 180° 2.14 miles (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1830/13).

Exploded magnetic mine, position being confirmed (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1807/13).

Operations curtailed by weather (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1807/13).

2nd M.R.F. To sail for Scapa to operate in suspected area 1 mile 55° from N.E. end of Calf of Flotta (R.A.M.L. 1516/13).

Dangerous Area Bridlington Bay. Magnetic mines suspected to have been laid by aircraft at 2000/12 (F.O. Hunber 0942/13).

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet
ARK ROYAL — Your 0030/12. Not understood why ARK ROYAL requires 1 or 2 months' intensive training. Ship commissioned in Jan. 1939 and was efficient unit when she left Home Fleet in Oct. 1939. If ship really requires this intensive training she should sail for Mediterranean as soon as possible, but I should like my requirements as set out in my 1653/28/2 modified so that 2 sqns. Fairey Battle replaced 2 sqns. T.S.R. to be fulfilled by Fleet Air Arm. I hope return of GLORIOUS to Home Waters will not postpone date of NEPTUNE joining Home Fleet vide Adty. 1628/28/2. C. in C. E.I. 0705/29/2, Adty. 1915/5/3 (C. in C. H.F. 2335/13).

Northern Patrol — Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 7 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait - 3 A.M.Cs.

18th C.S. Pending further instructions 18th C.S. will not be available for service on N.P. (C. in C. H.F. 1526/13).

HOOD — Should spend at least 1 week in Portsmouth to give leave before proceeding to Malta (C. in C. H.F. 1123/13).

SUSSEX — Returning to U.K. Passes Gib. 0300/14 (F.O.C.N.A. 1116/13).

Submarines — 0700/14 (R.A.(S) 1821/13. D.C. 2036/13) on patrol. URSULA, L 23 (V.A. (C) 1257/13) SEAWOLF (Capt. S.3 1443/13) orders for PORPOISE (V.A.(S) 1759/13).

Air.

Firth of Forth A/A Defences — Your 1751/12. H.Q. Fighter Cmd. consulted. Additional mobile guns cannot be removed from Clyde area as they are required to cover equally important objective. Full balloon field will be shore Forth. Arrangements being made for maximum fighter defence by local and reinforcing squadrons (D. of L.D. 2024/13).

Enemy Air Activity — M/S Trawler reports 3 seaplanes dropped several objects near her in Bridlington Bay (F.O. Humber, 1314/13).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported.

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C., 1141/14).

1240 — Intercept, one submarine course 360 position LMAA 2536 (Rosyth Radio 1240/14).

1245 — Very doubtful report periscope sighted by S.S. DAFFODIL in Largo Bay when on passage to Aberdeen 1245/14. Hunt is in progress. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1854/14). My 1854/14. Name of merchant ship is NAUIEDALE, now arrived Aberdeen. Am satisfied reported periscope was a dan buoy laid for navigation purposes recently. Hunt abandoned after complete search had been made. (C. in C. Rosyth 1157/15).

2145 GMT — 51:29 N., 2:53 E. by Dutch ship (IC. 0391/40) (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 1150/15).

North Atlantic

U-boat off Spain, report — Report of sick German sailor ex U-boat landed by Spanish fishing vessel at Puesto Etienne de Santa Maria, Biassitz, and taken by ambulance to Municipal Hospital, Cadiz, (reliability unassessed). (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1132/14).

Submarines Attacked

2013 — H.M.S. STORK attacked good stationary contact in position 254° Elic Ness 5, small trace of oil, no other result, investigation continuing (STORK 2013/14). This is a known non-submarine. (C. in C. Rosyth 2107/14).

1056 — Aircraft of Coastal Command dropped 3 250 lb bombs on a submarine sighted 150 miles E. of Orkneys 59:25 N., 2:56 E., 092° Fair Isle 137'. No hits observed (D.C.N.S.) (I.C., 0390/40)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands (Contd.)

ERIKA HENDRIK FISSER	Sighted by Aircraft 62:57 N., 6:50 E., north of Aabsund proceeding north unladen at 7 knots probably for ore at Narvik, 1259/14. (I.C., 0390/40) (Aircraft 1259/14 to 18 (R) Group H.Q.).

North Atlantic.

GEDANIA	Admiral Martinique, reports Norwegian tanker JASPIS given 9000 tons oil fuel German GEDANIA at Luluz, Canary Islands. Former sailed for Curacao 4/3. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1600/14).

America & West Indies.

HANNOVER	Congratulating DUNEDIN, ASSINIBOINE on bringing her into port. DUNEDIN to make early report on general condition of ship and steps necessary to make her serviceable. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0413/14).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

MIMI HORN) SEATTLE) VANCOUVER)	Request any available descriptions (sailed from Curacao 5/3). (V.A.N.P., 1255/14). Reply (D.N.I., 1626/14).
FECHENHEIM FRIGGA	(See 13/3 - FECHENHEIM) Informed German Consul, Haugesund, 0708/14 required berth at once and tugs as she had lost both anchors. Arrived 0930. At 0730 Utsira Radio informed her she was in Norwegian territorial waters and had no permission to use her wireless. FRIGGA arrived Haugesund 1200/14. (I.C., 0389/40, 0390/40) (Haugesund 1100/14, 1845/14).
APOLLO	Reported 0612/14 she was South of Ven, 55:55 N., 12:40 E. and impossible to reach Malmo without icebreaker. (I.C., 0389/40).
KONSUL KARL FISSER	Loaded with ore and ready to sail from Narvik pm/13. (I.C., 0389/40). Sailed from Narvik am/14 (D.C., 2015/14).
OLDENBURG	Arrived at Narvik 14/3 (D.C., 2015/40, Narvik 1230/14).
SIMON VON UTRECAT	Arrived Narvik, 14/3. (D.C. 2015/14)(Narvik, 1230/14).
ARIADNE	Arrived with general cargo (Gothenburg 1235/14)
ELECTRA	Sailed in ballast (Gothenburg 1235/14).
DUISBURG	In position 58:27 N., 6:00 E., at 1500 steering S. (R.A.(S) 2254/14).
SCHWABEN	In port loading herrings (Haugesund 1100/14).
-	Master of Swedish BRAGELAND reports German trawler met with north of Bergen, 5 German ships in ballast anchored in Haugesund. (LETITIA, 1020/14)
AACHEN	Awaiting pilot off Vinga, 57:38 N., 11:37 E. at 1635/14 (I.C. 0390).

War Diary

14. 3. 40.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Interception of Ships, escape of V.MAYAKOWSKI

We appear to be drifting into acceptance of 100-mile limit of territorial waters in case of Japan, and N.A. Tokyo's 1901/13 indicates Japanese even question our right to illuminate anonymous Japanese merchantman at night. This in war time naturally cannot be accepted, particularly with possibility of disguised raider appearing. Appears V. MAYAKOWSKI may have slipped through our patrol or used another route, not unexpected as local press full of an approaching blockade of Vladivostok. Suggest better policy would be to intercept ships near to their port of departure, thus avoiding many complications apart from large expenditure of fuel as for present operation. C. in C., China, 1029Z/14.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies.

Transatlantic Air Service — Press announcement, confirmed to me by President of Pan Airways that as from 18/3 all stoppage of Transatlantic Air service westbound as well as eastbound at Bermuda will be cancelled (Lord Lothian, Washington, 350 R to F.O. 14/3).

FAMWARNO — My 1200/13. FAMWARNO should be allowed to proceed if no further grounds for suspicion are found. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1224/14 to Governor, British Guiana).

New C. in C. — Flag of Vice-Admiral Sir C. Kennedy-Purvis hoisted in ORION 14/3 (M. 03525/40).

East Indies

Boom Defence Aden — My 2026/29/2 Boom carrier LAOMEDON not to sail until further orders. (D.B.D., 1725/14).

Iranian oil-fields defence — If no change in situation, I intend proceeding to Bombay in GLOUCESTER leaving Colombo a.m. 23/3 and arriving back 28/3. Besides points for discussion with F.O.C.R.I.N. I shall have opportunity to talk over projects for defence of Iranian oilfield with representative Chief of General Staff. (C. in C., E.I., 0704Z/14).

China.

Germans sailing — In NAGO MARU, NITIRAN MARU. Difficulty of obtaining concrete evidence, as Dutch authorities in order to safeguard neutrality will not give information. No seamen known to have left German ships for Japan, probably because according to strong rumours ships preparing to slip away end March (C.G. Batavia 17 to F.O. 14/3).

Ships off Japan — Similar orders to C. in C. E. Indies 0728/9/3 and New Zealand Naval Board 1332/12/3 have been issued in area 4, with the addition that in view of conspicuousness of darkened shipping in the crowded shipping lanes off the Japanese coast ships are to be undarkened and burning full navigation lights within 15 miles of Japan. (C. in C., China, 0815Z/14).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Contraband Control — 565 M.E.W. Summary, German Economic Developments, No. 22, para. 108 to 112. Key commodities whose export to Germany is expected to increase are carried on from Izmir to Istanbul in small Turkish coasting steamers or in Italian and U.S.A. liners. Owing to distance from Malta and low endurance of Turkish ships traffic from Izmir to Istanbul not normally diverted by patrols. Control could be more rigorously enforced for short period if this would assist negotiations mentioned in para. 110. Request I may be informed if and when this is required. (C. in C., Med., 1325/14).

COLOMBO, Italian Mails — Admiralty, 1507/13. Italian ship COLOMBO, 4 bags of mail removed and examined, afterwards resealed and placed on board Italian VICTORIA, which cleared Haifa 1400/14/3 for Naples. (C. C.S.O., Haifa, 0900/14).

Illegal Immigrants — Your 1245/17/2. My 1116/24/1 superseded my 1110/30/12. Special dispositions for intercepting these ships are not to be made by reason only of their carrying illegal immigrants. But such ships intercepted in the ordinary course of contraband control are to be sent in to Haifa. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., Med., 1157/14).

ATHLONE CASTLE — Your 1916/9. Matter is being investigated, but in any case information is incorrect (D.N.I. 1901/14).

CARLISLE — Asking when she will return to U.K. (D.O.D.(H) 1115/14).

America & West Indies

MAURETANIA — Admiralty 1211/14 and my 1730/14. Do not consider it desirable to transfer ammunition to MAURETANIA at sea outside territorial waters of U.S.A. Request MAURETANIA may be routed via Bermuda, where her ammunition outfit will be embarked at Murray's anchorage on arrival. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1745/14) ALAUNIA to take it (C. in C. S.W.I. 1730/14).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Enemy Agents — Your 1258/8. French officers at Gibraltar have no authority to arrest under French regulations enemy nationals in ships sent in to Gib. or any British port. You should ask French Liaison officer whether French authorities have evidence of these four Germans being enemy agents. If they reply yes, you should take them off under para. 4 of my 0034/13/10, otherwise they should not be taken off. (Hd. of M., 1717/14 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Dispositions — H.M.Ships and Convoys. (D.C., 1918/14). French positions 1300/14 (D.C. 0045/14).

SEVILLA — Protection at Gibraltar, (see South Atlantic).

South Atlantic

FRESNO STAR, grounding, sabotage. — On night 6/3 British ship FRESNO STAR ran ashore whilst leaving San Julian, 49:20 S., caused by extinguishing of Punta Pena light, fortunately came off undamaged. Vice-Consul, master and pilot consider this to be attemtped sabotage. I agree. Recommend all ships proceeding to ports in Southern Argentine where navigational dangers exist be warned to enter and leave harbour in daylight hours only. Advising Vice-Consul, San Julian, accordingly. (N.A., Buenos Aires, 1010/14, N.I.D. O. 1207/40 N.A.'s War Despatch No.9).

Routeing — Cancel my 1100/10/3 and substitute etc. (re routeing of neutral vessels) (S.O.(I) Freetown 1114/14).

SEVILLA — C. in C. S.A. 1213/12. SEVILLA to be sailed independently to Gibraltar for inclusion in an HG Convoy. In view of value of cargo, F.O.C.N.A. requested to consider some protection in approaches to Gibraltar. (D.T.D., 1322/14).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

Home Command

SHEFFIELD	Defects. Advisable remain Newcastle until 17/3 (N.O.I.C. Newcastle, 1816/14).
ST. BRIAC) SOMERSETSHIRE)	Collision in Southampton Water. ST. BRIAC damaged bows (Press).
DUKE OF ROTHESAY) Tr. VIREO)	Collision in Irish Sea (Press).

Foreign Stations

S.S. LOCH DEE) S.S. PORT FAIRY)	Collision (? date) (D.T.D. 1841/14 to C.O.A.C. Halifax). (C.O.A.C., 1010/15).
EAGLE	Damaged by internal explosion. 1 officer, 12 men killed, 5 men wounded. (EAGLE 1701/14, 1723Z/14, 1751Z/14). Bomb exploded in bomb room 0730. Ship is not unseaworthy and is continuing to Singapore for detailed examination D.C.N.S. 194). Landing of injured has revealed that casualties occurred. Brief statement to press desirable. (F.O.C. Singapore 0806Z/16). Special measures to be taken to ensure secrecy, nothing to be allowed in press until Admiralty decides. (C. in C. China, 0755Z/15 to F.O.C. Malaya). Your 0806Z/16. Statement will be issued 1200/18 (D. O.D.(F), 2031/16).

War Diary

14. 3. 40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

OA 110G	Programme (N.C.S.O. Thames 1226/14).
MT	" (C. in C. Rosyth, 1234/14).
OGF 22	Sailing telegram (A.C.W.A., 1103/14).
OB 11	Route (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1043/14, 1229/14).
HN 19	19 ships (D.T.D., 1034/14).
HX 27	Position (D.T.D. 1742/14).
FN 19	Arrived 1430. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1450/14).
FN 21	Postponed 24 hours (C. in C. Rosyth, 1148/14) owing to weather (C. in C. Nore, 1101/14).
SL 24	Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1043/14).

Miscellaneous

ORION	Flag of V.A. Sir Charles E. Kennedy-Purvis K.C.B. was hoisted in ORION 0900/14 (C. in C. W.A. 1114/14).
Suspicious lights	WOOLSTON to investigate succession of red Very's lights reported 4-5 miles 045° St. Abb's Head at 2018 (C. in C. Rosyth 2244/14).

Weather

0500	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	N. Moderate. E. in Thames.	Good in North. Poor in South.	N.E. wind. good visibility.
Channel	S.W. fresh. S.W. gale at Ushant.	Moderate.	Wind veering N., visibility improving.
W. Approaches	N.N.E. moderate.	Good.	Similar.
Horns Reef	N.N.E. moderate.	Good.	Similar.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Unknown Aircraft — Sighted over Tromsoe 1215/14. (Tromsoe 1309/14). Can you ascertain nationality. (D.N.I. 1136/15 to N.A. Oslo).

Balloons destroyed — 5 water borne balloons in Southampton water reported destroyed by lightning (H.Q. Balloon Command, 1700/14).

Mining

Sweeping reports — No sweeping (F.O.I.C. Portland 1700/14).
No sweeping due to gale (Cdr. I.C. Sheerness 1825/14)
do. (V.A. Dover 1909/14).
do. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1937/14).

Operation P.A.3 — Is area safe for navigation (D.M.S. 1129/14, C. in C. Rosyth 1503/14).

Dangerous Areas — Suspected within circle radius 3 miles about position 51:30 N., 2:10 E. due to mines (D.M.S. 1957/14).
Admiralty 1957, three Oropesa trawlers from Dover can sweep this area 15/3 if you concur (V.A. Dover 2126/14). Thanking him but saying inadvisable for trawlers to sweep this area (C. in C. Nore 2327/14).
Due to mines in circle 0.5 miles about position 080° 7.5 cables from Bridlington Pier Lt. (D.M.S. 2010/14, F.O. Humber 1915/14).

Magnetic Sweeping, Firth of Forth. — Your 1507/12. Necessity for more magnetic sweeping material in Firth of Forth is appreciated but owing to complexity of anti-magnetic sweep production is slow. Arrangements to augment (D.M.S. 1738/14).

Shipping

Ships from Dutch Ports — Your 1240/13. Ships should not be detained but routed in accordance with my, etc. (D.T.D., 0215/14 to B.C., Amsterdam).

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet — All capital ships are in harbour.

ARK ROYAL — Reply to 2335/13. Explanation. Unless opportunity is given for adequate training at sea of F.A.A. personnel success in offensive operations which they alone are capable of undertaking will not be achieved. (V.A.A. 2324/14).

Northern Patrol — Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 6 A.M.C.'s.
Denmark Strait - 3 A.M.C.'s.

18th C.S. Cancel my 1526/13. Normal arrangements to be continued (C. in C. H.F. 1043/14).

Submarines on Patrol — Movements (Capt.(S)3 1151/14, 1848/14. Positions 0700/15 (R.A. (S) 1716/14, Admiralty 1919/14, V.A.(S) 2144/14, submarines on patrol to bring S.P.O. 2319 into force 0001 GMT/22 (D.S.D. 2013/14).

Operations

German destroyer off Gottenburg — W.S.G. 23 para. 8. Instruct URSULA to attack destroyer carrying out this patrol. (C. in C. H.F. 1507/14). German destroyer reported patrolling off Gottenburg. Proceed to vicinity and attack (R.A.(S) 1742/14).

Aberdeen — Extention of oil facilities recommended in view of anticipated operations at Aberdeen (C. in C. Rosyth, 1035/14). Approved (D. of S. 1238/15).

ALTMARK — Swedish S.S. BRAGELAND reports ALTMARK moved Josing Fjord stern to sea. Very near quay on 10/3 (LETITIA 1020/14) ALTMARK arrived Sandefjord in tow of 2 tugs. B.2 (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1704/14).

Air.

Air Reconnaissance — In addition to normal patrols.
(a) Submarine reconnaissance flight round Ireland by 2 flying boats.
(b) Reconnaissance flight by an Empire flying boat up Norwegian coast to 64:30 N. On this flight ERIKA HENDRIK FISSER was sighted off Molde 1230, JBRA 5750, 045° (northward bound in ballast D.C.N.S. 193) and DUISBURG ½ mile W. of Egersund Lt. 180 (not mentioned by D.C.N.S. 193) (C. in C. Rosyth 2240/14).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

1044 — 50:23 N. 1:35 W. by civil aircraft. (I.C. 0391/40).

1430 — 50:28 N. 1:30 W. periscope reported by aircraft course 260 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1626/15).

0500 — 51:41 N., 1:44 E., 032° N. Foreland 22'. Reported by French source (C.2.) N.W. (I.C., 0392/40). Report suggests magnetic minelaying in vicinity of buoy at North End of Knock Deep. (D.M.S., 1712/16).

2127 — D.F., unknown enemy unit in 54:30 N., 4° E., unreliable fix, reporting course of aircraft N.W. at 2127 B.S.T., (D.C., 9248/15).

East Indies

Somaliland — (See Foreign Stations).

South Atlantic

1330 — Unknown submarine on surface, course N., 04:43 S., 34:02 W. (? French). (S.S. NATIA via Portishead Radio, 1330/15).

Submarines Attacked

By HERO submarine reported V.D.S.E. 2325 at 1157/15 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1531/15, 1157/15). Flare dropping aircraft was sent out 2000/15 accompanied by observing aircraft, to search. No indication of U-boat was seen (A.S.W.D. 194).

U.17 Possible wreckage. — Wooden fitting stamped U.17 picked up in neighbourhood of the boom, appears genuine and is being forwarded to D.N.I. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1835/15).

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War Diary

15. 3. 40.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked.

A/S Tr. PERIDOT mined, damaged.

A/S trawler, Skipper W.H. Burgess R.N.R. struck 0255 by (believed floating) mine while on patrol 50:57 N. 1:29 E. (Minesweeping Summary 22 says 50:27 N., 1:29 E.) crew taken off by another trawler no casualties. BRILLIANT took her in tow at daylight, tow transferred to LADY DUNCANNON later. PERIDOT suddenly foundered 0945 whilst in tow in approx. 51:6 N. 1:25 E. no casualties (V.A. Dover, 1140/15, 0754/15). Your 1640/15, proposed inquiry into trawler striking mine, Approved. (D.C.N.S. to V.A. Dover, 1245/16).

MELROSE sunk 1245

British 1589 tons sunk 1307 after explosion 1245, 51:21 N. 2:13 E. possibly by submarine. Not in convoy. Following 5 large neutral ships at time. Captain Johnson and 3 survivors landed at Zeebrugge (N.C.S.O. Antwerp, 2150/15 and Reuter). The 4 ships were roughly in line ahead and the neutrals had passed through position in which explosion occurred, consequently considered U-boat responsible. (A.S.W.D. 194) (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1025/16, V.A., Dover, 1301/16). Master of S.S. KAIDA, Estonian, saw ship blown up, gives position 51:22 N., 2:19 E. Saw Dutch motor vessel ANNA W. pick up 1 man and some wreckage. (N.C.S.O. London, 1501/18) on 21/3 3 mines were exploded in trawlers' sweep 51:10 W. 2:10 E., 3 miles S.W. (approx.) of position where MELROSE was sunk. Minesweeping Summary 22, 20/3/40, says mined.

Submarines Reported

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C., 1233/15).

0725

Aircraft sighted conning tower of submarine approx. 5 miles 078° from Buchan Ness lighthouse, 57:32 N., 1:40 W., submarine later submerged. Aircraft going to search. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0630/15, 0830/15).

1300

By aircraft 55:38 N., 1:20 E. submarine which crash dived immediately it saw aircraft. Course S.S.E. 110° true speed 5-6 knots. Just previous to diving submarine made challenge but aircraft had no time to answer (H.Q. Bomber Command, 1540/15).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands.

EUROPA) Arrived (Narvik 1317/15).
OSLEBHAUSEN)

SIMON VON UTRECHT Sailed with ore (do.)

OLDENBURG Loading ore (do.)

STOCKHOLM Has gone ashore at mouth of Elbe (S.O.S.) (Burnham on Sea Radio, 2148/15).

America & West Indies

HANNOVER Description of damage, cargo still smouldering in all holds. Supply of 3 lifeboats, one anchor, repairs to minor items and generators for auxiliary machinery will render ship serviceable (DUNEDIN 1429/15).

South Atlantic

RIO GRANDE installing short wave wireless with permission of Minister of Marine. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1812/15, D.N.I., 1057 /16).

China

Ships Preparing to leave. My 0856/11. Activity continues. Ships at Sousabaya, Tjibatjap, Macassar have full bunker coal available or already supplied and cargoes are being collected. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0940/15).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

German Coal

Italian Govt. express view that H.M. Govt. in present exercise of their belligerent rights are disregarding both letter and spirit of international law. H.M. Govt. point out account must be taken that they are fighting against enemy who has repeatedly flagrantly disregarded those principles and even the common precepts of humanity. H.M. Govt. prepared to accept marked disadvantage at which they are placed through refusal to initiate German barbarous methods, although action of enemy gives undoubted right to retaliation. (F.O. to Sir P. Loraine (Rome) 141 15/3).

C. in C. Med.

1134/15 see 13/3 Boarding in Greek Waters.

China

V. MAIKOVSKY Intercepted

Intercepted by KANIMBLA 42:0 N., 145:37 E. Weather too bad to board. I am proceeding towards Hong Kong at 7 knots, Soviet ship following. Will board when weather moderates. Jammed Soviet ship's transmission on 500 Kcs but I think he transmitted a message on H.F. (KANIMBLA 0630Z/15) (Cargo of copper believed destined for Germany).
If not required to assist KANIMBLA, H.M.S. MORETON BAY to resume patrol South Japan keeping out of sight of main Japanese Coast in daylight except when necessary to intercept enemy shipping. (C. in C., China, 0900/15).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Whale Ships — Admiralty 2229/10. In order that plans may be made for providing general cover and endeavour to obtain from agents probable date of sailing from Capetown and in case of last 4 ships probable dates of arrival at Falkland Is. (C. in C. S.A. 1003/15).

Capetown arrival 15/3, UNIWALECO from Durban, PELAGOS from Antarctic. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1028/15).

SEVILLA — British ship. Admiralty 1322/14. Sailed 1100/15. Route (C. in C. S.A. 1055/15).

Freetown Base — AFRIKANDER V. abolished as from 15/3. All officers and men for duty at Freetown will be borne on books of EDINBURGH CASTLE. (M. 0406Z/40, and Branch Acquaint 429, 16/3).

Americs & West Indies

EMERALD — Subject to satisfactory trials should be ready to sail for Halifax 4/4 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1103/15).

KIM — U.S.S.R. ship sailed Mauzanillo 24/2 6000 tons copper for Vladivostock (S.O.(I) Kingston 1630/15).

Sabotage
COMEDIAN — In order to facilitate investigation of sabotage of cargo of British S.S. COMEDIAN request confirmation that COUNSELLOR has been sunk and cause. Purser of COMEDIAN Mr. Michael McNamara transferred to COUNSELLOR prior to sailing. R.C.M. Palsowish to known if he was a survivor (C.O. Atlantic Coast, Halifax, 1705/15).

NIAGARA — My 2237/14, Consul-General, San Francisco, report on informant sent to Vancouver. Naval authorities, Vancouver, agree NIAGARA is probably safe, but precaution should continue in Australia and New Zealand. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1116/15). My 1856/12 and 1749/14. Capt. I.C. Dockyard, Esquimalt, reports investigations have failed to bring any definite sabotage plot to light. Activities of informant suspicious but after very careful check his story is considered false. No. suspicious person sailed in NIAGARA and no trace of men reported proceeding to Vancouver has been found. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2239/15).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia & New Zealand.

AORANGI — Your 1656/12. AORANGI cleared safely from Sydney 14/3. (Australian Naval Board to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0226Z/15).

U.S.2 — Proposals for movement 2nd and 3rd Australian Brigade Groups and New Zealand 2nd Brigade Group. US2 will be divided as in Admiralty 1231/6 and agreed in 0751/7, slow group 1st Australian Bde. Group and fast Group remaining Australian and N.2 Bde. Groups. Proposed movements slow group leave Melbourne about 15/4, 1 Fast Group leave Wellington about 1/5. (D. of S.T. 1702/15).

East Indies

Italian Submarines Somaliland — Your 0736Z/12. We have no knowledge of any Italian submarines visiting Somaliland since beginning of war. Presence of German submarines in this area considered impossible. (D.N.I., 1155/15 to C. in C. E.I.).

U.S.2 — Admiralty 1231/6 and EAGLE 1701/4 in probable event of EAGLE not being available to escort slow group U.S.2 following alternative replacements are possible from Force than at my disposal,(a)HOBART (b) SUFFREN. (c) A.M.C. would remain with escort throughout. Prefer (a) especially if Force H. could be held ready to operate if required in Madagascar area where HOBART was to have been disposed during passage of whole of U.S.2. (C. in C. E.I. 1344Z/15 to Admiralty).

North Atlantic

French Forces — Positions 1200/15 (D.C., 0022/15) 2000/14 (F.O.C.N.A. 1456/15).

Vigo Minefields — Asking whether there are any prohibited areas in Vigo or regulations for entering and leaving harbour which suggest presence of minefields (D.N.I. 1921/15). Reply 17/3.

Convoys — Positions (D.C. 1838/15).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

GOLDENGLEAM	Patrol Yacht. Ashore in Loch Ewe. Likely to become total wreck. No lives lost. (N.O.I.C. Port A. 0830/15, 1820/15).
H.M.S. PERIDOT sunk	Sunk by mine off Dover. No casualties. See U-boat campaign.
EDINBURGH	To be taken in hand for refit on arrival 17/3 concurrently with repairs. (C. in C. H.F. 1733/15).
FIJI	Commissioning postponed to 2/4 (A.S. Newcastle on Tyne, 1710/15).
WOLFE	Defects. Dockyard assistance required (WOLFE 0800/15).
S.S. PANAGHIOTIS	Aground 5 miles S.W. Dungeness. Not in immediate danger (Base Ship Scapa 2118/15 intercept). Distress now clear (N. Foreland Radio 2232/15).
NEREUS	Lost propeller (Naval Censor Portishead Radio 1240/15).
MELROSE	Sunk 1307 51:21 N., 2:13 E. She was following 3 large neutral ships. Cause undetermined (I.C. 0391/40).
ELSONADOR	Your 1935/13 no information since departure (D.N.I. 1039/15).
TIBERTON	Considerably overdue at a N.E. coast port presumed lost. Was engaged in iron ore trade with Narvik. (Northern Echo).
LEO DAWSON	Engaged in iron ore trade with Narvik was lost about a month ago (do).

Foreign Stations

LOWTHER CASTLE	Overdue, ship arrived.
NORNA	Swedish. Left Gib. 7/2 missing (A.S.D. Stockholm).

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (continued)

Patrols Sweeping

SEALION's patrol report. Patrol very large trawlers 10 miles E. of SUNFISH's buoy. Apparently fitted hydrophones. Number of explosions suggesting possible explosive sweeps (V.A.S. 1946/15, Capt. S.3 1720/15 to SUNFISH).

Patrols

German patrol vessels probably converted fishing vessels of 400 to 600 tons nos. 110, 116, 146 painted on bows and carrying H.A./L.A. armaments reported operating off Kristiansand South and Lindeness (R.A.(S) 1201/15).

Minelayers

Enemy minelayers and patrol vessel believed to be operating near 54:25 N. 3:55 E. at 0930. A.I. (D.C. 1125/15). Indications enemy unit in same locality 2127 (I.C. 0391/40)

BLUCHER

Die Wehrmacht of 17/1 intercepted by Hong Kong Censorship has broadside and bow views of German BLUCHER as described in Admiralty 1526/14/12. (C. in C. China, 0448/15).

U.S.S.R. Submarines sold to Germany

Re report from German sailors at Sassmitz of transfer of submarines. Possible that some Russian submarines are being used by Germans for training purposes in Baltic. (N.I.D. X1/31).

German Fleet

Information from Good source that GNEISENAU was in Schillig Roads and SCHARNHORST, LEIPZIG, KOLN were exercising 9/3 in Heligoland Bight area. B2. (D.N.I. 1234/15).
From indications received it must be assumed LEIPZIG has completed repairs to damage caused to her 13/12 (I.C. 0390/40).

FINNO-RUSSIAN WAR.

Peace Treaty ratified by Finnish Parliament.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Guns issued — Return of Lewis Guns and A/A devices issued to fishing and other vessels for week ending 12/3 (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1553/15).

Miscellaneous

NIEULAND — Dutch. Suspect neutral routed independently to Downs; bound for Rotterdam. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2001/15).

Scapa defence-balloons. — Re extending balloon field to cover fleet anchorage on N. and E. by floating balloon sites until kites are available. Trials by 10 R.3 trawlers (D.C.N.S. 2132/15).

AJAX magnetism — Propose to carry out experiment to remove permanent magnetism of AJAX at an early date. (VERNON, 1223/15).

Ice — Ice conditions improving slowly. Great Belt and Falsterbo passages not possible until conditions permit sweeping of minefields. (D.N.I. 1710/15).

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea, North	S. Gale.	Moderate.
South	W. Moderate.	Good.
Horns Reef	N.W. Moderate.	Good.
Channel	W. Light.	Good.
W. Approaches	S.E.	

Outlook - Similar.

Enemy Intelligence

Belgian Ships seized. — Four small Belgian ships, GOUDA (suction dredger), tugs LOUCKY, MARIE HENRIETTE, DINA which were in Gdynia when port was bombarded Sept. 1939 are now reported to be in hands of Germans. (Lloyds).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Norwegian Mines — Your questionaire 31/1, question 5. (B.3) Norwegian N.O. asserts sufficient mines stored at Marvaken to protect approaches to Christiansand south. (Vice-Consul, Christiansand, to D.N.I., 1730/15).

Shipping

Convoys

HN 19 — 36 ships, midway between Norway and Shetlands, escorted by five destroyers and an A/A cruiser, EDINBURGH providing close cover. (D.C.N.S.193).

HN 20 — SHEFFIELD to cover. Sail am/17 (C. in C. H.F. 1013/15).

HX 25 — Meet (C. in C. W.A. 1045/15).

OB 112 — Route (C. in C. W.A. 0953/15).

OA 112 — Route and escort (C. in C. W.A. 0952/15).

ON 20 — Left Methil 1700 28 ships. 12 to join from Kirkwall (C. in C. Rosyth 1750/15).

Situation — 2000/15 (C. in C. W.A. 1450/15).

B.C., BC Fast, BC Return, AXS) — Code words (D.S.D.+1553/15).

OGF 22 — Position 1700/15 (F.O.C.N.A. 1646/15).

SL & SLF 22 — Arrived (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0805/15).

SL 24 — Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1938/15).

OA 110 G — Number and speed. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1114/15).

Convoy Papers in Neutral Ship — Norwegian S.S. BALDER seized Germans whilst on voyage in ballast from Drammen to Bergen and taken to Germany, sailed from Methil 27/2 in Convoy On 16. No record of return of convoy papers by Captain. (N.A., Oslo, 1600/15).

Consular Visa — Your 2026/14. Explanation (D.E.W.D. 1827/15 to V.A.N.P.).

Neutral ships — Patrol off Lizard by yachts KILORAN, SAPPHO to order them in since so many now have instructions not to enter C.C. bases unless formally compelled (D.E.W.D. 1825/15).

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Air Operation — To chase enemy minelayers and escort vessels reported VLUM 2553 at 0930. Unable to see anything owing to low visibility. (H.Q.B.C. 1700/15).

Balloons — 10 casualties in Forth, 4 of which are adrift owing to strong wind. (Balloon Command 1100/15).

Enemy Air Activity — Expected on east coast (C. in C. Rosyth,1012/15). Considerable air activity over southern half of North Sea 0800-1700. Unusual number of aircraft operating, possibly on reconnaissance, but probably extended training flights. None appear to have approached nearer than 75 miles from east coast. They used W/T extensively reporting their observations and movements and at least one appears to have been attacked by our aircraft but low cloud and haze prevented contact being maintained. (I.C. 0391/40).

British Air Activity — In addition to normal patrols, 15 bomber aircraft went out to locate an enemy minelayer and patrol vessel reported by German aircraft 80 miles N.W. Terschelling 0930, presumably because there was doubt of their identity. Our aircraft failed to find these ships due to bad weather. (H.Q.B.C. 1700/15). (H.Q.B.C., 0540/16).

Air Line. — Route to be addopted by Allied and Scottish Airways between mainland and Kirkwall (Air Min. 1652/15).

Interception Exercise — (See 12/3). Held today. Was of great value. Services of WOOLSTON much appreciated. (H.Q.C.C., 1715/16)

Mining.

Sweeping reports — Peterhead operations abandoned, gale. Invergordon, Aberdeen operations abandoned owing to weather (C. in C. Rosyth 1847/15). No sweeping, weather (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1813/15). Lyness, Kirkwall nil, weather (A.C.O.S. 1615/15).

Floating Mine — New type sighted off Gris Nez. C.3 (D.C.2210/15)

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

SUSSEX	Return to Gib. and await further orders (D.O.D.(H) (H) 1550/15) Cancel (D.C. 20/7/15).
SPEARFISH	Join TM etc. (C. in C. Rosyth 1044/15)
W. Approaches	Dispositions 1800/15 (C. in C. W.A. 1846/15).

Operations

Submarines on Patrol

Dispositions ordered in my 1822/12 and 1257/13 are no longer required. Orders for UNITY URSULA. Redisposition on patrol. Bombing restrictions arranged for 16/3, 17/3. (V.A.(S) 0446/15). Further orders for L23 (Capt.(S)6 0539/15). Bombing restrictions asked for (D.C. 1744/15). Orders for NARWHAL, TRITON, THISTLE, SEAL, TRUANT, ORZEL, TRIDENT (Capt. (S)2, 1158/15). For SALMON, STERLET, SNAPPER (Capt.(S)3, 1059/15).

Operation R.3	Concentration of ships is being dispersed. See Movements.
SEALION	Patrol report. (V.A.S. 1946/15, Capt. (S)3 1720/15). See Enemy Intelligence.
ALTMARK	Quotation asked for today from Oslo agent of largest Dutch Tug Coy. to proceed to Josing Fjord to escort ALTMARK "both engines working but not rudder" to either Copenhagen or Goteborg. Coy. refused quote. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 1920/15).

Air.

Aircraft off Norway.	Admiralty 1136/15 (nationality of plane over Tromso). 3 or 4 Russian machines observed during past two days in same locality. During same period British machines have flown inside territorial waters between Hustadvika and Lister and dived on to ships. No German aeroplanes have been observed off Norwegian Coast for a conside able time. (N.A., Oslo, 1355/15).

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet — Admiralty 2259/14. GALATEA, AURORA, 6th D.F. at Clyde sail for Scapa pm/15 (C. in C.H.F. 0237/15).
Admiralty 2259/14, 1st D.F., 7th D.F., 12th D.F., 20th D.F. are available to return to normal duties forthwith (C. in C. H.F. 0327/15).

HOOD — escorted by 3 destroyers is on passage to Clyde to give leave before proceeding to Malta to refit.
C. in C. with remaining heavy ships is at Scapa.

WARSPITE — To sail for Scapa escorted by 4 destroyers pm/16 (C. in C. H.F. 1443/15).

Northern Patrol — Admiralty 2259/14. 1st C.S. resume normal duty on N.P. 2 ships to proceed on patrol as early as practicable. Remainder proceed to Scapa as convenient. (C. in C. H.F. 0235/15).

Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 Cruisers, 6 A.M.C.'s.
Denmark Strait - 3 A.M.C.'s.

Ex-Trawler Skippers. Admiralty 2021/7. Owing to limited accommodation in ARETHUSA class and Flotilla leaders ex-Trawler Skippers could not be accommodated permanently in these ships. Might be useful for specific operations if readily available. (C. in C. H.F. 1249/15).

Submarines — 0700/16 (R.A.(S) 1734/15, D.C. 1902/15).

French Submarines — To be based on Harwich from about 21/3 with JULES VERNE as depot ship. (Acquaint 428, M.0496/40).

A/S Groups — 21st A/S Group proceed Dover, 23rd Granton, 12th & and 13th Grimsby. 15th and 16th A/S S.F. to remain under your command with administrative base Aberdeen. 19th A/S S.F. constituted, names of 5 trawlers, to remain under your command, base as 15th and 16th. Information re balloon trawlers later (D.O.D.(H) 0017/15 to A.C.O.S.).

War Diary

16.3.40.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

1236 — By destroyers and aircraft 58:42 N., 1:22 W., 168° Fair Bland 53'. D/Cs. and 1 bomb dropped on oil tank. (I.C., 0392/40) This is position of a known wreck (I.C., 0393/40). (A/S.W.D. 196).

War Diary

16. 3. 40.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

NAIDA sunk 1045 — H.M. Drifter, skipper R.N., Utting R.N.R. sunk 1045 by mine, 51:25:30 N., 1:45:10 W. (moored minefield E. of Margate) C.O. and 5 ratings missing. About 10 miles E. of N. Foreland 1045. 6 survivors. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1614/16 D.C., 2024/16, F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1140/16).

SLAVA sunk 1245 — Yugo-Slav (4512 tons) sunk by mine in Bristol Channel 5 miles S. Nash Point, 1245. Not in convoy. Was out of swept channel navigating in prohibited area. (D.C.N.S. 195). Probably mine (A.S.W.D.194) (I.C., 0392/40). Intercept from GEORGES MABRO (Burnham on Sea Radio, 1300/16, 1404/16, Lands End Radio, 1314/16). Barry and ports to eastward were closed for one day and the searched channel was amended to lead further south of the area. 51:20 N. 3:38 W. (Minesweeping Summary 22).

Submarines Reported

Estimated disposition (D.D.I.C., 1211/16)

0856 — By D/F 54:40 N., 5:40 E. Reliable (D.D.I.C. 0943/16).

2106 — 59:50 N., 2° W., 266 Sumburgh Head 21', position indefinite. (I.C., 0392/40) (D.D.I.C., 2156/16).

1615 — In position DVSE 4238. Aircraft ordered to investigate. At 1640 observed oil trail. Remained searching till 1800, nothing further observed. (Donibristle, 1940/16).

1120 — Aircraft reports bubbles rising to surface and slight oiliness on water in HTSV 0320. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 1417/16).

1300 — Suspected submarine in D.V.S.E., 4238 bearing 140-4 from H.N. 19. (F/B. K.6929, 1515/16).

2000 — Dutch scoot VIEDE reports that about 2000/16, 2 miles N.N.E. Fairy Bank Buoy sighted what appeared to be derelict submarine. Ship being held for futher intelligence. (V.A., Dover, 1507/17).

War Diary

16.3.40.
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

America & West Indies

HANNOVER	H.M.S. DUNEDIN's 1429/15. Consul-General, New York, being asked whether British crew can be provided for local pool. Comdr. A. Morison, R.N., will be in command and will arrive Kingston about 25/3. (C. in C., A. & W.I., 2035/16).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

JOHANN BLUMENTHAL	Arrived Asendal for ore. (Asendal, 1235/16, D.D.I.C., 1611/16) Description (Capt.(S)2, to SEAL, 2319/16).
AMERIKA	Arrived Narvik (I.C., 0392/40).
GOLDENFELS) BOCHUM) BORBECK)	Arrived Narvik (Narvik, 1242/16).
AACHEN	Arrived Gottenburg with coal. (Gottenburg, 1235/16).
ARIADNE	Sailed from Gottenburg (Gottenburg, 1235/16)
INGORATA	Arrived Rotterdam A.M., Probably sailing tonight. (N.C.S.O., Rotterdam, 1329/16).
FRIGGA	557 tons, has sailed. (Haugesund, 2030/16)
FECHENHEIM	Still here (Haugesund, 2030/16).
SCHWANECK	Loading (Haugesund, 2030/16).
HOMBERG	Arrived Haugesund for herrings (I.C., 0392/40).
STRAUSS	Previously reported left Rotterdam, 8/3, now reported left there at 2300/16. (I.C., 0313/40) (N.C.S.O., Rotterdam, 1300/17, cancelling his 1030/?).
STOCKHOLM	Small ship, 618 tons, ashore near Elbe lightship and reported sinking. (W.S.G., 25, 19/3).

South Atlantic

DRESDEN	At Santos, Brazil, reported to be loading Diesel oil from Rio Grande do Sul. (I.C., 0392/40).

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

V. MAYAKOVSKY	Cargo listed as copper. Intend to make passage passing south of Hachijo Jima, Estimate arrival at Video Island 24/3. (KANIMBLA 1305/16) KANIMBLA's 0630/15 and my 0900/15. LIVERPOOL is proceeding independently to refuel from oiler APPLELEAF in vicinity of Saddle Island am.19/3 and will afterwards be available if necessary to join KANIMBLA and tow V. MAYAKOUSKY. (C. in C. China, 0259Z/16).
EAGLE Explosion	Your 0806, issue of statement re accident in EAGLE, approved. (C. in C., China, to A.C., Malaya, 1247Z/16).

East Indies

EAGLE	Your 1344Z/15. Request early confirmation that EAGLE will be unable to meet commitment for U.S.2. (D.O.D.(F), 1939/16).

Australia

Greek Ship PELEUS	Connected perhaps with I.R.A. (Australian Board, 0627Z/16). Was due at Colombo 10/3 from Albany (Austfalian Board, 0219Z/17).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Convoys Positions (D.C. 0200/16).

Ocean Convoys Position (D.C. 1844/16).

South Atlantic

Unknown Cruiser French Colonial authorities report cruiser resembling SCHEER passed Bahia 15/3 heading south. Can you confirm, deny or give further information. (D.N.I., 1748 /16). Could this have been one of H.M. ships? (S.O.I., Montevideo to N.O.I.C., Falklands, 1757/16).

Whale Oil Carriers Capetown departure 16/3 UNIWALECO and PEDER BOGEN, both D.E.M.S. for Freetown, PELAGOS for Walvis Bay and Norway. (S.O.I., Capetown 1208/16).

America & West Indies

MAURETANIA
QUEEN MARY — Admiralty 1202 and 1203/12. New York reports sailings dependent upon arrival of ANTONIO at New York, due 18/3. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1016/16).

Mediterranean

Swiss complaint Re removal of Swiss subject from CONTE VERDE outside Port Said (Hd. of M. 1657/16) see 17/3.

Italian Shipping My 2320/4/1, goods shipped by Italian Govt. to Italian East Africa. Arrangement has been prolonged pending further instructions (D.E.W.D., 1914/16 to C. in C., Med., etc.).

B.S.T. Gibraltar Comes into force at Gibraltar today. (F.O.C.N.A. 1146/16).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

PANACHRANDOS	Greek 4661 from Downs 14/1 for Key West overdue presumed lost. (B.U.P. Athens).
FLORA	1878 tons Sunderland 22/1 for R. Plate overdue presumed lost. (B.U.P. Athens).
NORAN	Swedish 1022 tons, Gib. 7/2 for Stockholm much overdue.
ALYN	Aground pm south side of Fort Island, Derbyhaven, Isle of Man. Was bound for Belfast 7 crew saved by life-saving apparatus, 2 lost 1 body ashore. Vessel breaking up. Cargo coal. (Press Bureau, from Isle of Man Govt., 1055/17).
NORFOLK) IRON DUKE)	See Air.
XANIA) ABERDEEN)	Trawlers in collision 16/3. XANIA sank. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1301/18).

Australia

KAHIKA, sank	Union S.S.Co's KAHIKA struck rock in fog and sank, 41:10 S., 144:45 E., 1130Z/16. No lives lost. Vessel bound Melbourne from Strahan, Tasmania, with iron pyrites. (Australian Naval Board, 0411Z/18).

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

Suspicious Vessel VREDE — British ship RYE reports motor vessel VREDE, Holland, behaving suspiciously between Fairy Bank, West Hinder and Dyck light buoy 1700/16, also observed 7 floating mines of which 2 German vicinity Fairy Bank. (N.C.S.O., Antwerp 1030/16, D.C., 0137/17).

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea		
North	N.W. strong.	Good.
South	W. Moderate	Good, coastal haze.
Horns Reef	W.N.W. strong.	Moderate.
Channel	W. moderate.	Good, coastal haze.
W. Approaches	S.W. light.	Good.

Enemy Intelligence

Germany and Holland — Story from Paris, Germans bringing pressure on Dutch to yield naval and air base in Holland. (D.N.I., 1851/16). Your 1851/16. French N.A. informs me origin French G.H.Q. reliability not known. No rumour heard here. (N.A., Hague, 1810/17).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Halvorsen Ships in Convoy — Uneasy at Halvorsen's ships being allowed to join convoys in view of his notorious pro-German attitude. Halvorsen is the person who lately negotiated agreement with Germany concerning safety of Norwegian ships. (N.A., Oslo, 1100/16).

Danish Ships Intercepted — Complaint that Danish FRODE and KATHOLM, Copenhagen to Manchester, brought into Kirkwall 10/3 by KINGSTON PERIDOT. Appears ships should have been allowed to proceed as destination was a British port. (D.E.W.D. 1330/16). Ships were escorted in as boarding was impossible and identity had not been established. (V.A.N.P. 1751/16).

Passengers in Westbound neutrals — Your 1751/28/2. Westbound neutral ships carrying passengers whose names not reported to you as approved by H.M. representatives abroad are to be sent in for examination (D.E.W.D. 1711/16 to V.A.N.P.)

Fighter escort of convoys — Air Min. 1451/16 see Air.

Convoys

FS 22 (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1112/16) (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0916/16).

HN 19 Estonian BEGONIA (D.T.D., 1055/16, 1350/16).

TM 27 Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1117/16).

GS 6 Sailed (N.C.SO. Humber, 1100/16, 1104/16

OA 110 Details (A.C.W.A., 0948/16) sailed (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0436/16).

OB 113 GF Route (C. in C. W.A. 1033/16).

MT 32 Sailed (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0814/16).

HX 24 Remainder arrived (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1600/16).

OA 111 Number and speed (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1519/16).

OB 112 R.V. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1340/16).

HN 20 Additions (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1414/16).

My 1743/5, for KIMBERLEY read KASHMIR. Destination of BRIARWOOD changed. (O.T.D., 1348/16).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Sweeping reports (Contd.)

Nore Request SCZ 77 and 114 cancelled and new searched channel established, 1 mile wide, centre passing through -

(a) 53:05 N., 01:30 E.
(b) 53:05:30 N., 01:18 E.
(c) 53:20:30 N., 01:03 E.
(d) 250 degrees 3 miles from charted position of Outer Dowsing Lt. V. (C. in C. Nore, 1123/16).

Unexplained explosions

1100 — 7 miles W.S.W. of Dungeness. (I.C., 0392/40)

1134 — 2 explosions off Bawdsey, (52:o.5 N., 1:26 E.) (I.C., 0392/40).

Shipping

U.S. and C.C. Ports — U.S. Govt. have announced to Press that ships of other nationalities leaving U.S. ports may enter control stations for which they have not cleared only if compelled to do so and that masters may be called upon to produce evidence of this compulsion. To avoid complications on next visit to U.S.A. of such a ship it is necessary for a formal order to proceed to a contraband control base to be given even if ship is calling there voluntarily. Requirements will be met if such ships are spoken and given necessary orders by signal and this will have to be done in future. Similar action should be taken as a ship approaches a C.C. base in case she has not previously been spoken. (D.E.W.D., 1331/16)

Dutch & Belgian Shipping — Dutch N.A. has requested no Dutch ships should be permitted to sail eastward from the Thames or Downs for the present. (D.T.D., 1339/16) My 2150/15. Hove held up all shipping pending instructions suitable ships be routed via Dunkirk. (N.C.S.O. Antwerp, 1025/16).

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Air raid on Scapa (Contd.) as destroyer escort available. Proposals etc. I am driven to ask A.C.O.S. whether IVANHOE and GALLANT can be spared. (C. in C. H.F. 1727/18).
Incendiary bombs fell on foreshore near Hatston, reports of incendiary bombs received from Eastern end of Flow. Incendiary bombs also dropped on foreshore between Kirkwall and Carness and report of possible parachutes to eastward of Hellier Holm.
Eastern entrance to Kirkwall has been closed while magnetic sweeping takes place (A.C.O.S. 1035/17).

Bombing Restrictions Requested for submarines from daylight 17/3 until further notice between parallels of 57° N., and 58:30 N. between meridians of 4° E. and 9° E. (D.C., 2126/16).

Air reconnaissance Normal patrols flown and East coast lightships visited. Reconnaissance flights made by Bomber Command aircraft over Borkum, Frisian Islands and Heligoland early A/M. Nothing important sighted. Few bombs dropped on auxiliary craft without result. (D.C.N.S. 195) (I.C., 0392/40) (H.Q., Bomber Command, 1600/16).

Mining

Sweeping reports

9/3 trawler 221 is reported to have brought up a mine 20 miles S.S.W. of N. Hinder (I.C. 0391/40).

Humber 2 mines cut in 53:37:30 N., 00:18 E. (F.O. Humber, 2008/16).

Harwich MAIDA struck a mine and one mine swept up in 51:25:30 N., 01:45:10 W. (LORD MELCHETT, 1900/16).

Cardiff Mine report 51:20 N., 3:38 W. approx. Ports closed east of Barry inclusive. Inward ships to Swansea and ships from Swansea outward bound unchanged. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff, 1800/16).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

ALTMARK — French N.A. visited Sandefjord yesterday. Director, Framnass Docks conformed he had refused to undertake repairs to ALTMARK. Sailing thought to be dependent on ice conditions in Belts. (N.A. Oslo, 1030/16).

Air.

Fighter escort for convoys — Admiralty accept, pending re-examination, limiting conditions suitable for Fighter escort of Convoys clouds not below 1000 ft. and visibility not less than 1500 yds. (Air Min. 1451/16).

Air raid on Scapa — At 1950, just before dark, about 15 enemy aircraft attacked the Fleet in Scapa. Five minutes warning was received. Ships present included RODNEY, VALIANT, RENOWN, REPULSE, IRON DUKE, NORFOLK, 6 6-in. cruisers and 16 destroyers. Fighters went up but had to retire owing to the A.A. fire of the Fleet and did not make contact. RODNEY, NORFOLK, IRON DUKE (only) known to have been attacked.
H.E. and incendiary bombs were dropped around the ships. NORFOLK was hit on quarter deck and holed by a near miss aft, having 2 killed, 6 wounded. IRON DUKE was slightly damaged by 2 near misses.
Bombs were dropped on shore near Hatston Aerodrome and at Waith Bridge on Kirkwall - Stromness Road, (1 civilian killed, ? wounded, 5 cottages damaged). The Eastern entrance to Kirkwall has been closed as it is considered possible mines were dropped in it.
One or two enemy aircraft are believed to have been shot down by guns of Fleet.
(C. in C. H.F., 2210/16).

WOOLSTON, 2023/16, A.C.O.S., 0109/17, 1035/17.

NORFOLK requires immediate docking. Propose ship refit concurrently with repair (C. in C. H.F. 1147/17) 2 killed 6 wounded. On land 1 civilian killed, 7 wounded. (D.C. 0750/17). Casualties NORFOLK, 2 officers killed, 1 missing, 1 officer, 5 ratings wounded, may be others in flooded compartments (C. in C. H.F., 2328/16) D.O.D.(H) 1331/17 can be taken in hand Glasgow.
3 ratings wounded, 2 officers killed, 2 missing, 4 wounded (NORFOLK, 1015/17, 1019/17) Damage (C. in C. H.F., 0233/18) Important NORFOLK sailed for Clyde via Minches as soon

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

HOOD Admiralty 2216/12. Route for HOOD on passage to Gibraltar, and fuel requirements. (C. in C. H.F. 1001/16, 1003/16, C. in C. W.A. 1541/16, D.O.D.(H) 1554/16, F.O.I.C. Greenock 1608/16).

ARK ROYAL Being sailed for Mediterranean during next few days for one or two month's intensive training, suggested carried out from Alexandria. Request facilities including an attendant destroyer when one can be made available. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., Med., 1408/16). Request conformation that Home Fleet destroyers are to carry out this duty. (C. in C. H.F., 1441/16). Your 1441/16 confirmed. Repeated no destroyers available any other source. (D.D.O.D. 1824/16).

GLORIOUS Unless you require GLORIOUS as soon as available, proposed she should continue training in Mediterranean for the present. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C. H.F. 1553/16

FURIOUS Your 1611/29/2. FURIOUS ready to sail P:M. 18/3. Regret no escort available. (C. in C. W.A. to C. in C. H.F. 1727/16).

Flag Appointment Rear Admiral M.L. Clarke appointed Rear-Admiral 2nd in Command, 18th C.S., to date 15/4/40. (M.O.4901/40) (Branch Acquaint, 16/3/40).

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 7 A.M.C.'s.
Denmark Strait - 3 A.M.C.'s.

Eastern entrance to Kirkwall closed. Any ships brought in to be taken to Veanstrow Bay. (F.O.C.N.P., 2305/16).

Submarines

Positions 0700/17 (D.C. 2023/16, 2235/16, R.A.(S) 1646/16, 2029/16, orders to TRIAD, THISTLE, SEAL. (Capt. (S)2, 2126/16, V.A.(S) 1909/16. Quite agree with V.A.S.'s 1139/8, re 3 vessels for escort duties with submarines at Harwich, Blyth and Firth of Forth. (C. in C. H.F., 1652/16).

War Diary

17. 3. 1940.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked

CAPITAINE AUGUSTIN French, 3173 tons, sunk, probably mined, 2 miles E. of Tongue Light ship (D.C. 2038/17) 51° 30' 36" N., 1° 25' 24" E. (I.C. 0393/40) Not in convoy. 2 of crew injured, 2 missing,
1401 26 landed Margate. (N. Foreland Radio, SSSS 1401, 1506/17). Re. dangerous areas declared see M.S. Summary No. 22.

ST. ANNALAND 1200 Dutch, 2248 tons, sunk by mine at 1200/17. (D.C. 2038/17). I.C. 0393 gives position 51° 23' N. 2° 1' E., which is also that given by N.C.S.O., Antwerp 1805/17. Not in convoy. Crew saved (D.C.N.S. 193) (Scheveningen Radio 1317/17) (N. Foreland Radio, 1335/17).

ABBOTSFORD From Flushing on 8/3. Missing. Sailings from Belgian ports have been suspended owing to the numerous casualties between North Foreland and the Schouwen Bank (W.S.G. 25, 19/3).

S/ms. Reported

Estimated dispositions - 1 E. of Shetlands homewards. No other information from which a deduction can be made (D.D.I.C. 1201/17)

2113 D.F., probably U-boat, position cannot be estimated but frequency suggests North Sea area. (D.D.I.C. 2235/17)

1205 Fleet rescue tug SALVONIA reported sighted a U-boat some 20 miles N.N.W. of Land's End 50° 23' N., 05° 58' W., surfaced and crash dived. WAKEFUL and WINDSOR sent to search (A/S.W.D. 195) (C. in C.W.A., 1403/17, 1653/17). Doubtful. (I.C. 0393/40) (Plymouth W/T 1205/17).

2243 U-boat suspected in vicinity of Fairy Bank buoy. 10th M.S.F. from Dover escorted by 3 French destroyers will be sweeping in vicinity between 0800 and dark tomorrow owing to possibility of mines. 2 P.A.Vs. to patrol between Kentish Knock and a position distant 130 deg. 15 miles to act as A/S force if required. (C. in C. Nore 2243/17)

Cancel my 1454 and my 1626 (no trace in W.R.) Rendezvous with SHEARWATER in position Y. at 0745 and carry out orders in C. in C. Nore's 2243 (presence of U-boat). (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2243/17).

V.A. Dover, 1507/17. See 2000/16.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

ERIKA HENDRIK FISSER — Arrived Narvik (I.C.0393/40) (Narvik 1204/17)

KONSUL CARL FISSER — Passed Haugesund, southbound 1600/17. (I.C. 0393/40) (Haugesund 1850/17)

ILSE L.M. RUSS, KURT HARTWIG - SIEMERS — Arrived Haugesund unladen 17/3 (I.C. 0393/40)

HELENE RUSS — My 1911/10, ORZEL reports 0040/11, 2 vessels believed to be one destroyer and German ship HELENE RUSS inside territorial waters off Thyboron Light. (R.A.S. 1932/17)

KONIGSBERG PREUSSEN — (Ice-bound 3 miles N. of Kullen Light 56.17 N. 12.28 E.) Reported free on 16/3 and proceeding W. to a home port (W.S.G. 25).

South Atlantic

WINDHUK — At Santos, Brazil. German Embassy have re-opened embargo case, but reported no likelihood of ship being released before Easter (I.C. 0393/40)

DRESDEN — Santos reports berthed alongside 1st March to load into No. 1 hold 1680 drums of Diesel oil ex Rio Grande do Sul. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1733/17).

America & West Indies

HANNOVER — C. in C.A.W.I's 0413/14. Further information should be obtained if possible re destination, fuel, scuttling orders, etc. (D.N.I. 1406/17 to S.O.(I) Kingston).

FOREIGN STATIONS (Contd.)

East Indies

EAGLE — Admty. 1939/16. Latest date EAGLE would have to leave Singapore is now 14/4. Request whether ship can be ready. (C. in C.E.I. 0429Z/17)

U.S.2. — D. of S.T. 1702/15. Recommend X-3 and larger ships of fast group U.S.2. proceed if possible from Colombo to Suez without calling Aden for fuel and water (C. in C.E.I. 0727/17).

Mediterranean

Danube Sabotage Report — Galatz reports, reference Admty. 1933/1/1, Admiral Janakonlis, formerly connected with Jewish immigrant scandals, is to leave Greece next few days for Danube to organise sabotage on British ships. (B.3.) (S.O.(I) Malta 1403/17).

GLORIOUS — Admty. 0030/12, 1201/16, 1408/16. Intended to sail GLORIOUS for U.K. 28/3. BULLDOG and WESTCOTT proposed retain Mediterranean to provide escort and attendent destroyers for ARK ROYAL. Escort for HOOD and GLORIOUS in West Mediterranean will be provided from Med. destroyers (C. in C. Med. 1041/17)

Signalling and D/F Stations. — Your 1837/13. Request Dingli D/F Station be employed on Station Fleet etc. One station at Ismailia work in conjunction with Dingli on Italian frequencies and other keep watch on Russian frequencies. (D.D.I.C. to C. in C. Med. 1252/17).

Swiss Complaint — Admty. 1657/16. Julius Muller was taken off Italian ship CONTE VERDE by French despatch vessel LASSIGY off Port Said on 12/3. C.C.S.O. Ports Said not concerned. Report attached S.554 CONTE VERDE gives details of this. Muller and Steiner associates of Muller. (C.C.S.O. Port Said, 1159/17).

War Diary

17. 3. 40
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Vigo Minefields — Admty. 1921/15. Know of nothing at Vigo suggesting presence of minefields (Consul Vigo 1158/17)

French positions — At 1200/17 (D.C. 0014/17)

S/m supply vessels — My 2132/26/2. Re. Spanish CARMELITA and another Velero named ANGELITA or ARGELITA of 150 tons which when ready will operate in area of Straits and will supply submarines on special occasions but normally will engage in legitimate trade as cover. (N.A. Madrid 1244/17)

Australia & New Zealand

US2 - RAMILLIES — D. of S.T. 1701/15 and 1702/15. As N.Z. transports are not included in US2 (slow) propose RAMILLIES remain in Sydney until 10/4 approx. and then proceed Melbourne to escort US2. Extra period in Sydney would greatly assist refit (Australian Commonwealth N.B. 1116/17). Your 1701 and 1702/15. Concur. In order to save unnecessary steaming intend to retain Y3 at Fremantle where 1400 troops already there will embark. (Australian Commonwealth N.B. 1229Z/17).

South Atlantic

Cruiser Resembling SCHEER — Admty. 1748/16. R.A.S.A.D. informs the report could not refer to a British or French warship. Request further details of report and grading. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1051/17). No information (Consul Bahia 1609/17). No information Rio de Janeiro or from Montevideo (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1439/17).

South African R.N.V.R. — My 1602/7. General Smuts has informed Parliament (a) S.A. Division, R.N.V.R. can only be mobilised by Union Govt. (b) Division has not been mobilised. (c) Some members of Division have volunteered for service in R.N. and accepted as individuals. (d) They are being paid by R.N. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1054/17).

War Diary

17. 3. 40.
Sunday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

EGTON CAVEROCK	British EGTON 4,363 tons, and CAVEROCK, 1,332 tons, collided 22 miles N. of the Smalls at S.W. corner of Wales at 0130. Both in an outward-bound Gibraltar convoy. (D.C.N.S. 195) Tug SALVONIA proceeded to assist. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 0640/17) (Admiral, Devonport, 0144/17)
LOUISE MARGUERITE	Ashore on Bishop de GLD (LOUISE MARGUERITE 0458/17). Distress cleared. (Lands End Radio 0417/17, 1315/17).
SUFFOLK BELLEVIN	SS. BELLEVYN at 1750 collided with H.M.S. SUFFOLK in Princes Dock. SUFFOLK requires docking, but no delay in ultimate completion anticipated (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1212/17)
INTREPID OCEAN DRIFT	INTREPID was in collision A.M. with Lowestoft trawler OCEAN DRIFT, 227 tons, 50 miles N.E. Kinnaird Head. Trawler sunk, but INTREPID sustained damage to her stern, and proceeded Invergordon. 8 survivors from trawler picked up. (INTREPID 1035/17) Damage described (INTREPID 2053/17). 2 d. in trawler (Allied Newspapers 20/3)
SS. VERBANIO	requires assistance, insufficient coal to reach port (Wick Radio 1332/17).
GOTHIC	Grounded W. of Kentish Knock 0445 (GOTHIC late CLEMENCEAU 1939/17).

South Atlantic

AQUITANIA	Grounded 1240 253 deg. Cape Sierra Leone light 14.7 cables (C. in C.S.A. 1827/17, 2015/17). Refloated. No apparent damage (C. in C.S.A. 1543/18). She was holed by an oiler before sailing for the Cape but is apparently sea-worthy. Arrangements have been made for her repair at Simonstown.

War Diary 17. 3. 40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

SPHINX Wreck — All ammunition, provisions and recoverable stores removed, and naval working party withdrawn. (R.A. Invergordon 1030/17)

Folkestone W/T Station — Admty. 1826. Folkestone W/T Station handed back to S.R. on 11/3 (V.A. Dover 0945/17)

Suspicious Vessel VREDE — N.C.S.O. Antwerp reports 1030/16 British RYE reports motor vessel marked VREDE - HOLLAND behaving suspiciously steering abnormal course between Fairy Bank, West Hinder and Dyck Light Buoy 1700/16, also observed 7 floating mines of which 2 German vicinity Fairy Bank. (D.C. 0137/17, N.C.S.O. Antwerp 1030/16) (Sed also 16/3).

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	S. Gale in N. S.S.E. Fresh in S	Moderate	Poor visibility
Channel	S.E. Fresh in E. S.W. Moderate in W.	Moderate	Similar
W. Approaches ...	S.S.W. Moderate	Fog	Similar
Horns Reef	S.E. Light	Very good	Wind freshening. Visibility deteriorating

Enemy Intelligence

Iron Ore Traffic — Narvik ore trade again in full swing. Three ships sailed from Narvik between 11th and 16th March, and on 17th there were seven ships in port either loading or waiting to load. In addition, the HEDDERNHEIM and one other, name unknown, passed Aalesund, northbound, at 0800/10 and have not been reported since. May have proceeded to Kirkenes for ore. (I.C. 0393/40)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Minelaying from Fishing Smacks — Our serial 1975 ENEX DU MAPIA. Ship searched and no unmanifested cargo found. Captain reported that 2 German fishing smacks operating under Belgian and Norwegian flags respectively had been taken into French ports and were found to have magnetic mines on board. (Ramsgate 1630/17)

Kirkwall — Eastern entrance closed while magnetic sweeping takes place (A.C.O.S. 1035/17).

Shipping

Finnish Ships — JULIETTE, LOTTO and LEENA not to sail until further orders. (D.T.D. 1217/17)

Belgian Ships — Your 1025/16. Resume the sailing of shipping. French Naval authorities are against the routeing via Dunkirk of shipping for U.K. (D.T.D. to Consul, Antwerp 1403/17).

German Coal — My 1606/4/12, neutral ships carrying German coal to Italy is cancelled. (D.E.W.D. 1408/17).

Dutch Ships — Dutch Admiralty anxious for route of smaller ships from Dutch ports for France and England via Dunkirk. French N.A. proposed this to French Admiralty. N.C.S.O. Rotterdam concurs. Suggest matter be taken up with French Admiralty. (N.A. Hague 1755/17). Message from Dutch N.A. to be passed to Dutch ships wishing to leave London and the Downs for Holland. (D.T.D. 1325/17)

Convoys

SL 25 ..	Advance sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1057/17)
SL 24 ..	Addition (N.C.S.O. Freetown 0911/17)
HGF 24	Route (D.T.D. 1156/17)
HN 20 ..	Ships sailed to join (N.C.S.O. Aalsund 0800/17)
HG 22 ..	Orders to escort etc. (C. in C.W.A. 1023/17)
HX 30 ..	Route (D.T.D. 1400/17)
HGF 22	Arrived (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1610/17)
OA 110G.	Add to my 1344/15 (N.C.S.O. Thames 1506/17)
OB 113 GF	Route (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1441/17)
Ocean ..	Positions (D.C. 1912/17)
FS 23 } FN 25 }	FLAMINGO's R of P 17-22/3/40. (M.O. 6322/40).

ASTRID — Too slow for convoy, to be sailed independently (D.T.D. 1745/17).

War Diary 17. 3. 40.

Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Air (Continued)

British Air Activity. Patrols over the northern North Sea were not flown 17th owing to weather conditions. (D.C.N.S. 196)

Reporting air attacks in P/L Fullest use should be made of plain language for reporting attacks by enemy aircraft. Most vital to reduce the time factor to minimum. (C. in C. Rosyth 1646/17)

Area for M/S to Engage. Admty. 2116/18, merchant ships engaging any aircraft not identified as friendly. It is suggested area to be extended to Dungeness. (V.A. Dover, 1705/17)

Scapa Base Requirements as result of week's experience at Scapa during which 12 warnings were issued that did not materialise and culminated in attacks on Fleet last night. (C. in C.H.F. 2357/17, A.C.O.S. 1921/19).

Mining

Sweeping Reports Exploded magnetic mine in Dundee skeleton trawl 1200/17 4 cables 336° Western Light Buoy in southern approach channel. This area was along line of flight of enemy aircraft at 0840/17 but nothing was seen to drop though visibility was small. Probable this mine has been there since loss of ANU. Do not consider necessary to close port (N.O.i/c Dundee 1435/17, C. in C. Rosyth 2105/17).

One German K type mine swept in approx. position 250 deg. 2 miles from Fairy Bank Buoy p.m. today. 10th M.S.F. to carry out sweep tomorrow. (V.A. Dover 1845/17, 1923/17.) This is quite close to where MELROSE was sunk on 15/3. (I.C. 0393/40). Traffic eastward from Thames and Downs stopped until sweeping completed. (D.C.N.S. 196).

Operation P.A.4. 2 ships of 1st M.S.F. to arrive Invergordon p.m. 19/3. Required for operation P.A.4. (C. in C. H.F. 1726/17).

HOME COMMANDS

Air (Contd.)

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

? 0930 BRACONLEA } (trawler) AVONDE } (trawler) Bombed and machine gunned Exact position not known, but believed to be in company with MIRABELLE. No damage or casualties. (I.C. 0393/40)

0845 A/S trawler NORTHERN PRIDE reported by V.S. to Peterhead, bombed and machine gunned by 2 Heinkels. One mark on hull. No casualties. (C. in C. Rosyth 1141/17) Returned fire, one enemy aircraft disappeared over land with part of tail missing and making black smoke. (A.C.O.S. 1051/18). Slight damage to hull (I.C. 0393/40)

0743 W/T intercept from A/S trawler STOKE CITY, attacked by enemy aircraft off Gridleness. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0743/17, C. in C. Rosyth 1947/17). No damage or casualties.

0810 and 0837 H.M.S. GUARDIAN attacked off Bell Rock (I.C. 0392/40) (GUARDIAN 0810/17) Single aircraft, machine gun only. (GUARDIAN 0837/17). 1 aircraft over May Island steering west. (GUARDIAN 0925/17). No damage or casualties.

Further Raid

1530 Raid off the Yorkshire coast. M/V CHARLES M., 403 tons, bombed and machine gunned by 3 sea-planes 1½ miles N. of Robin Hood's Bay. No casualties or serious damage to ship. Attack repulsed by machine guns of ship (D.C.N.S. 196) (I.C. 0393/40). Several torpedoes were dropped (T.S.D. 4063/40)

CHARLES M.

SOAR A 284 Presumably attacked. See 'CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS' 18/3. I.C. 0395/40 says it is understood she was not among the vessels attacked on morning of 17.

DAGNY Swedish (804 tons) bombed off N.E. coast of Scotland. No damage, aircraft was driven off by sight of British fighter in distance. (Press)

At least nine German aircraft active off Weser Light Vessel, course west, at 1701. (D.D.I.C. 1726/17) (I.C. 0393/40). Enemy aircraft were not transmitting. Information was obtained from Flakschiff report. Cancel my 1846/17 (re. frequency used) (C. in C.H.F. 2234/17).

S/m reported German aircraft reported s/m on surface in 57° 30' N. 03° 13' E. at 0942. (R.A.(S) 1027/17)

War Diary

17. 3. 1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

WARSPITE arrived Scapa 1600.
ARK ROYAL, escort. (C. in C.H.F. 1645/17) (C. in C. Portsmouth 1113/17)
GLORIOUS. Concur your 1553/16 GLORIOUS should remain Mediterranean for the present. (C. in C H.F. 1515/17) (see 'Mediterranean')
SHEFFIELD is off Shetlands proceeding Norway to cover next homeward Convoy.

Submarines

Positions 0700/18. (D.C. 1913/17) (R.A.S. 1729/17)

French S/m

SIDI FERRUCH. R.A.3's 0954/16 and 1744/10. Admiral Ouest will send escort to meet off Scilly Islands and requests time and position. (D.O.D.(F) 1215/17).

Operations

Operation SR3

Request permission to disperse stores and personnel. (V.A.(S) 0926/17). Approved 2039/17)

Air

Air Raid on Shipping.

Air attacks on shipping may be expected a.m. today (C. in C. Portsmouth 0217/17).
Enemy aircraft reported off May Island (D.C. 0805/17)

0730-1000 Enemy aircraft active between Aberdeen and St. Abbs. GUARDIAN and 4 ships attacked but no damage or casualties. (D.C. 2038/17). (C. in C. Rosyth 1141/17, 1947/17) (D.C.N.S. 196) (VALOROUS 0739/17, 0805/17) (I.C. 0393/40).

0730 SS. REDHALL, collier, 1093 tons, 1 mile outside Aberdeen. Attacked by Heinkel III from north, high, machine gunned. No damage, no casualties. (C. in C. Rosyth 1141/17) Crew replied with Lewis gun and drove off aircraft.

0930 S/T. MIRABELLE from Orkneys. 5 miles N.N.E. of Aberdeen. Machine gunned. Enemy aircraft apparently chased off by 2 fighters. No damage, no casualties. (C. in C. Rosyth 1141/17)

War Diary.

18.3.40.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

TINA PRIMO 1710 & 1822 sunk. Italian, 4853 tons, inballast from Rotterdam to Italy, mined 15 miles E. of North Foreland. Ship sank after second explosion at 1822. 36 survivors and one dead landed at Ramsgate. (D.C.N.S.)
51°20'N, 1°42'E. (N.O.I.C., Ramsgate 1720/18, 1930/18). Master of tug KENIA from Ramsgate Base reported that on approaching ship to pass tow rope on board noticed wire over TINA PRIMO propeller. Further explosion took place which in Master's opinion was caused by second mine (N.O.I.C., Ramsgate, 2114/18).
Later report gives position for mining as 51°20' 30" N., 1°46'E. (I.C., 0395/40, Minesweeping Summary 22). Trawler MARMION reports vessel drifted for nearly 2 hours before sinking. Position at time of explosion (as in I.C.0395). (C-in-C., Nore, 1101/19).

S/M's Reported.

Estimated dispositions.

1 Moray Firth area, possibly off Pentland Firth. Possibly 1 in Channel or Bristol Channel. No other information from which a deduction can be made. (to D.I.C. 1309/18).

0726 D.F., German naval unit, probably U-boat, transmiting urgent signal in 56°40 N., 3°20 E, (near N.W. corner of German minefield), unreliable fix. (D.C. 0759/18).

1145 Doubtful report of U-boat 29 miles S.S.E of Selsey Bill. (A/S.W.D.196). ANTHONY ordered to hunt enemy S/M in position VDGB, 1629 (C-in-C., Portsmouth, 1145/18).
ARROW, ANTHONY, IMOGEN ordered to cease hunting. (C-in-C., Portsmouth, 1840/18).

C-in-C., Nore's 2243/17. Suggest PINTAIL and SHEARWATER search to north of 51°19'N., and east of 2°16'E. (V.A., Dover 1015/18) This will be done to-day but it takes two thirds of my total available PAV's and therefore cannot stay long. (C-in-C., Nore, 1311/18) (A/S.W.D.,196).

1000 2 S/M's reported off Terschelling, course W., also 1 off Borkum at 0600 course W. Remain on patrol during night. (C-in-C., Nore, 1624/18).

S/M's Attacked.

1410 By FOWEY, doubtful contact, absence hydrophone effect suspicious. (FOWEY 1410/18, BIDEFORD, 1900/18). (? fish).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HELENE RUSS — Reported (A.1) left Christiansund north 17/3 loaded with fresh fish. (N.C.S.O., Aalsund, 1028/18).

GODFRIED BUEREN — Arrived Narvik 17th (Narvik, 1134/18) (D.D.I.C.1900/18).

FRIGGA — " " " " " " " "

EUROPA — Now loading ore.

CHARLOTTE CORDS — Arrived Rotterdam a.m., expected to sail tonight at 2000. (N.C.S.O., Rotterdam, 1128/18) (D.N.I., 1322/18). Sailing 2300/18 (N.C.S.O., Rotterdam 2200/18).

SIMON VON UTRECHT. — Passed Haugesund southward 1745 loaded. (Haugesund, 1910/18).

HEDDERNHEIM — From north, anchored in fairway. (Haugesund, 1910/18).

MATHIAS STINNES — Sailed in ballast. (Gothenburg 1758/18) name and registry part painted out. Crew wear naval cap with flash abaft (Gothenburg 1757/18).

MINOS — Sailed with general cargo. (Gothenburg 1758/18).

THURINGEN — German trawler believed THURINGEN passed westbound 1600. (Tromsoe, 1720/18).

East Indies.

5 ships at Bandar Shapar (see FOREIGN STATIONS).

America & West Indies.

VANCOUVER — (Reported sailed from Curacao 5/3). Still at Curacao 18th. (I.C., 0394/40) (D.N.I. 1343/19).

South Atlantic.

LAHN)
ANTONIA)
DELFINO.) — See FOREIGN STATIONS. South Atlantic, re raider contacts.

War Diary. 18.3.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

GLORIOUS — My 0030/12 and 1516/18, your 0705Z/29/2. Decision as to whether GLORIOUS ultimately rejoins your command will depend on circumstances, but it is probable that in near future there will always be one carrier in Mediterranean with which to reinforce you if situation requires.

GLOUCESTER — GLOUCESTER should be sailed sa as to relieve NEPTUNE at Simonstown on or about 8/4 (D.O.D.(F) 1852/18 to C-in-C., EI).

R.I.N. — Vessels taken over by R.I.N. for naval service (Secret Branch acquaint, 431/18/3, M. 05360/40).

Australia & New Zealand.

RAMILLIES. — Your 1116/17. Concur. Regret moral effect of visit of RAMILLIES to N.Z. will be lost but it will be realised change in plans is inevitable as she has neither speed nor endurance to accompany fast group. Presume Australian and N.Z. Navy Boards will now eventually arrange for escort of N.Z. contingent across Tarman Sea. (D.O.D.(F) 2359/18).

Mediterranean.

Palestine shipping. — (see 13/3). Can you state whereabouts now of 5 sea-going barges, also particulars, tonnage, etc. (Hd. of M., to N.O.I.C., Haifa, 2210/18). Reply 19/3.

GLORIOUS — Your 1041/17. On conculsion of one week's training arranged in your 1133/4 GLORIOUS to continue training in Mediterranean for the present. BULLDOG and WESTCOTT to remain Mediterranean for attendance on ARK ROYAL and GLORIOUS. My 1408/16, allocation of training areas to ARK ROYAL and FURIOUS is at your discretion. (D.O.D. (F) to C-in-C., Med., 1516/18).

Black Sea Mines. — Admty 1823/14. Turkish General Staff advise that mines found off Black Sea Coast are old and covered with much marine growth. Some are empty and appeared to have been used as buoys. (A.N.A., Ankara, 1716/18).

[redacted]

Minesweepers. — Minesweepers ABINGDON, STOKE, DERBY, BAGSHOT and FAREHAM have sailed from Singapore, four for Mediterranean, and one to relieve HUNTLEY at Aden, which ship also to proceed Mediterranean. (Secret Branch Acquint, 431/18/3, Admty 1332/9, C-in-C., to I., 0721/11).

War Diary. 18.3.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Identification. Procedure to be carried out by H.M. ships, South Atlantic Command, with object of making identification easier and thus avoiding Allied warship being reported enemy raiders. (C-in-C., S.A., 1325/18).

German Units, report. B.O. report from Buenos Aires, search source of investigation German ship LAHN and 2 groups of GRAF SPEE ratings, that DEUTSCHLAND and ADMIRAL SCHEER left Cuxhaven 23/2 and 26/2 respectively. One probably contacted ANTONIA DELFINO and both said to propose to operate South Atlantic. (S.O.1., Montevideo, 2127/18).

China.

German routine. FEDO, Part IV amendment No.17. My 022522/9, add Admty 1142/17, re routine between German warships and their base. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0551Z/18).

SALEIER. Dutch ship due Belawen about 20/3. Request watch ship when near Singapore and if she goes past bring her in. (D.E.W.D. 1622/18).

V. MAYAKOVSKY. KANIDIBLA's 1305/16. It is assumed sufficient guard on board V. MAYAKOVSKY to prevent ship being scuttled. (D.O.D.(F) 1613/18). To oil from APPLELEAF outside territorial waters unless this is quite impracticable. Position 30°21'N, 22°18'E, South Tuscan Island has been used in past. LIVERPOOL to remain in vicinity until MAYASKOVSKY has completed fuelling, when she is to return to Hong-Kong (C-in-C., China, [illegible] 0620Z/18). My position 0900Z/18, 35°00'N., 143°15'E., making good 9 knots. Cargo details. (KANIMBLA, 1040Z/18).

East Indies.

Contraband French Consul informed that BRENTA loading cargo including leather from German ships in Bandar Shapar on 3/3, consigned to Hamburg. BRENTA believed to be in Basrah. ANFORA cleared Colombo 16/3 for Genoa via Aden Massawa, Port Said with contraband cargo. (S.O.I., Colombo, 1033Z/18).

Defence of Iranian oilfields. Re. Middle East Conference on project for defence of Iranian oilfields. Naval operations on Shatt-el-Arab and Tigris may be required. Request consideration be given to allocation to Persian Gulf of at least 2 river gunboats. Early action would be necessary in view of approaching monsoon conditions. (C-in-C., E.I.1336/18).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Positions. At 1200/18. (.D.C. 0034/18).

S/M Patrol reduced. In view of inactivity of German merchant ships in Canary Islands, French Admiralty have instructed Admiral Afrique, to reduce the submarine patrol in that area to one submarine. To exploit deterrent effect, S/M will in future reveal her presence. (D.O.D.(F), 1624/18).

CASSEQUEL MARSHAL — Portuguese. Stopped by French warship off Lisbon Bar. Feeling aroused. (N.A., Lisbon, 1642/18).

Horta weather report. My 1726/5. GLEANER reports reading similar weather report at 0300/18, originating ffom Horta W/T station. (C-in-C., H.F. 1258/18).

America and West Indies.

MAURETANIA **sailing.** D. of S.T's 1202/12 and 1203/12. New York Press printed tonight correct rumour of these ships sailing. Permission given to release in Canada provided made clear simply reprint from U.S.A. Press. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1941/18).

Ammunition. Your 1745/14 and 1730/14. Concur in arrangements proposed. Ship will be routed to Bermuda. (Hd. of M 2208/18 to C-in-C., A.W.I).

Organisation of 8th C.S. In view of your concurrance proposals in my 1458/9 as amplified by your 1350/10 are now approved (Hd. of M, 1530/18 to C-in-C., A.W.I).

T.C.4. Your 0932/1, Concur in proposed dates for refits subject to further review. Dates when troops will be ready to sail. EMERALD will complete 31/3 and be ready to sail 4/4. Temporary repairs to ENTERPRISE's foremast will take 3 or 4 weeks. Re. para. 2, escorts will be required as follows: for (a) Cruiser, for (b) Battleship, for (c) and (d) requirements will be communicated later. (D.O.D.(F) 1323/18 to R.A.3). Your 1323/18. No alteration in programme up to HX.35 th then as follows. (List). Although HXF Convoys have been abolished even number convoys are still approximately double odd (? odd) number convoys due to 5 and 3 days' interval and escorts inferior to EFFINGHAM are regarded as unsatisfactory for these. (F.O.C. 3 B.S 1028/19).

Curacao Pilots. All N.C.S.O's in Jamaica Intelligence area to warn Masters of British ships to exercise care in discussions with pilots at Curacao, especially Van Ghent. (C-in-C., A.W.S. 2250/18).

War Diary

18.3.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

EAGLE	Work of repair cannot start before 21/3. Tentatively 6 weeks for repair. (F.O.C., Singapore 0441Z/18 to C-in-C., E.I., Adty.).
KAHIKA	Struck rock in fog and sank 41°10'S, 144°45'E 1130Z/16. No lives lost (Australian Commonwealth Naval Board 0411Z/18).
DAUNTLESS	Main condenser trouble. Cannot be relied on for continuous steaming at high speed. Not fit for active service until both condensers re-tubed. Suggest this be done at Hong-Kong as soon as convenient after her arrival (F.O.C., Singapore, 0449Z/18).

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

GOTHIC	Refloated 0515 (?) anchored, presumed undamaged (North Foreland Radio, 0458/18).
SOAR A.284.	Aberdeen trawler presumably grounded in gale and thick weather night 17/18 March approx., 1 mile S.W. of Gourdon. Four bodies washed ashore show marks of enemy action such as bullet wounds and are estimated to have been in water not more than 8 hours (C-in-C., Rosyth 1235/18).
ABBOTSFORD	Ghent 8/3 to Dundee, is a week overdue (Dundee Evening Telegraph).
CAPITANE A UGUSTIN	Position of wreck 126° Tongue Lt. V. 1.4 miles (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1700/18).
IMOGEN	Defective A/S transmitter (IMOGEN 1727/18).
GALLANT	Refit due, hope you can undertake at early date. No relief from Nore Command is available without creating acute shortage in 1st D.F. Recd. from C-in-C., Nore, 1255 (C-in-C., Rosyth 1523/18 to ACOS).
VESPASIAN) BETTA)	Aground off Folkestone (N. Foreland Radio intercept 1213) Former got off after 24 hours (Exch. Tel.).

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Mines. German mines washed ashore on coast of Norway are reported to be of 10 different kinds. (V-C., Kristiansand 1530/18).

Ships attacked between Narvik and U.K. By enemy up to 23/1, Narvik Police ask for list. Endeavouring to trace German W/T communication with Narvik can you supply information (Gibbs, Narvik 1215/18). Reply see 19/3 Shipping.

Iron ore trade. Pilot knows 2 places where southbound ore ships from Narvik habitually go outside 3 mile limit. Please make contact and report (D.N.I. 1741/18 to B-C., Tromsoe).

War Diary. 18.3.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Weather forecast. Request forecast for area at entrance to Skagerrak for period p.m. 19th to a.m. 21st be transmitted p.m. to-day Monday and revised subsequently as necessary. (F.O.C. 2 C.S. 1019/18).

Kirkwall. Eastern entrance to Kirkwall is now reported by N.O. i/c Kirkwall to be open to traffic (ACOS 1835/18). Cancel my 2305/16 (re closing eastern entrance to Kirkwall). (F.O.C.N.P. 1448/18 to N.P.).

Ice report. V.A.N.P. 0050/18.

WEATHER.

0500/18	Wind	Visibility.
North Sea	S., fresh to gale.	Poor.
Horns Reef.	S.E. moderate.	Good.
Channel and Western Approaches.	S., fresh.	Poor.

Outlook - similar.

War Diary. 18.3.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.	Position (D.C., 1844/18) Situation 2000/18 (C-in-C., W.A. 1315/18).
ON.20	Escorted by 6 destroyers and an A/A cruiser, approaching Norwegian coast.
HGH.23.	Extract from sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1114/18).
HN.20.	Destinations, etc. (D.T.D., 1216/18, 0140/18.
DA.114.	Escort and route (C-in-C., W.A. 1306/18).
SL.23 & SLF.23.	(C-in-C., W.A. 1209/18, 1218/18.
ON.21.	Escort for ships joining (C-in-C., Rosyth 2220/18).
HN.	Admty 2308/17, Point E. 1400/22/3. (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1013/18).
Belgian Ships.	Ref. Admiralty messages QZ. 407, 585, 596, 609, 610 have held up shipping. Request instructions as to routeing in view of your 1403/17. (N.C.S.O., Antwerp, 1045/18). Reply (D.T.D., 1406/18).
VIKING	My 1137/13 and Admty 2003/13. Danish ship VIKING left Fredericksh~~a~~vn yesterday 0730 for Methil. (N.C.S.O., Copenhagen, 1200/18).
Master of Stockholm.	Request whether Petersen, Master of Danish STOCKHOLM is relieved when ship next returns to Danish waters. (Hd. of M., to Consul, Copenhagen, 1344/18). Reply, 19/3.
Traffic stopped.	All traffic bound East from Downs and Thames is to be held until further orders. (C-in-C., Nore., 1623/18).
Convoy escorts.	"Acute shortage of destroyers for convoy escorts" (C-in-C., W.A. 1952/18).
Routeing Dutch and Belgian Ports.	Until further orders ships proceeding between Thames or Downs and Dutch or Belgian ports whose draught permits should be routed via Dunkirk and Z~~u~~ydcote Pass. Other ships should be held (D.T.D. 2001/18).
Downs-Wandelaar Lt. Convoy.	Under present conditions considered essential that a daily convoy should run each way between Downs and Wandelaar Light Bo~~u~~y. Approx. schedule, leave Downs 1900, arrive Wandelaar Lt., 0400, leave Wandelaar Lt., 0900, arrive Downs 1800. Considered 2 escorts required for each convoy, necessitating total of 5 - 6 vessels. Convoy to be operated by C-in-C., Nore. Co-operation of Dutch authorities essential, but as first action request your early remarks. (D.T.D., to C-in-C., Nore, 1234/18).

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

~~Aircraft~~. NEOTINUS.

UNITY (proceeding to Heligoland Bight patrol), rescued 8 Dutch seamen 6 days in open boat. (UNITY 1855/25). Trawler AGATE sent to R.V. with UNITY to take survivors off. (Capt. (S) 6 1846/26, 1903/26, 2147/26).

Mining.

Possible A/C mines are reported in Eastern Approaches to Kirkwall, 59°1.5'N., 2°54'W. (I.C.0393/40, 0394/40). Investigation showed that there were bombs, not mines (M.S. Summary No.22).

Minesweeping reports.

3 Type mines swept including one yesterday (V.A. Dover, 2219/18). Aberdeen, Peterhead nil owing to weather, Invergordon nil ships coaling. (C-in-C., Rosyth 2100/18).
2 mines cut 321° Humber Lt. V. 5.8 miles. Sweeping had to be abandoned owing to poor visibility. (F.O. Humber, 1945/18).

Swept Channel N. Goodwin Lt. V. to Fairy-Bank.

Propose should be established in view of enemy minelaying between these two positions. Maintenance of this channel by present M/S forces at Dover would necessitate abandoning routine sweeping by trawlers in searched channel westward from Dover or use of 10th M/SF for routine searching with consequent delay in completion of skimming Varne Minefield. Establishment of surface patrol between N. Goodwin Lt. V. and Fairy Bank is considered to be of great importance but destroyers at present available at Dover render this impossible in view of other requirements. P.A.V's considered very suitable for this duty. Not considered possible to extend sweeping beyond Fairy Bank to westward (V.A. Dover 1124/18) Reply. Cancel ~~Correct~~ in establishment of swept channel and use of 10th M/S.F. temporarily for routine searching. When 5th M/S.F. is available extend searched channel eastward of W. Hinder if possible. (D.M.S.2055/18).

Controlled mining base.

A.L.M/L.D. 0109/40 of 9/3 para 13. It is intended to erect a controlled mining base on lines of Plan R item "C". What ships will be available for maintenance purposes (F.O.C.C. C.S. 1244/18 to Adty).

Unexplained explosions.

Several heavy explosions were reported in the Approach to Bristol (51°25'N 3°W - P.A.). 1000/18. An explosion in this vicinity occurred on 25/11/39. (I.C. 0394/40).

HOME COMMANDS.
Movements.

7th D.F. Adty. 0036/18 (placing 7th D.F. under orders of C-in-C., H.F.). Request 7th D.F. may be sailed for Scapa as soon as possible (C-in-C., H.F. 1047/18).

Northern Patrol	Orkneys to Faroes	Trawlers
	Faroes to Iceland	2 cruisers of A.M.'s.
	Denmark Strait.	1 cruiser 2 A.M.C's.

S/M's Positions 0700/19 and movements (R.A.(S) 1816/18, D.C.1932/18).

Fleet Tender C. Proposing to ask ACOS to spare IVANHOE and GALLANT to assist escort damaged NORFOLK to Clyde, ESKIMO and PUNJABI taking their duty as escort to Fleet Tender C. (C-in-C., H.F.1727/18). The consequent orders etc., are in FOCOS 1018/19, C-in-C., Portsmouth 1203/19.

Air.

Catapult A/C's. In view of flexibility of Fleet dispositions if has been decided to combine all catapult A/C's into one nominal squadron numbered 700. (H.S. of Air Branch, 1430/18).

Shark K.5615 force alighted, sank 16/3, no casualties, (F.O.W. 1304/18).

Balloons. 6 adrift from Thames barrage (H.Q. Balloon Cmd. 0850/18). 0850/18).

Air reconnaissance. All searches delayed by weather except patrol 0.3 (see his 1616/17) and escort for H.M. 20 (C-in-C., Rosyth 0846/18).

Extension of area in which merchant ships engage any A/C's not identified as friendly. Your 1705/17. Matter is being examined in conjunction with French Authorities (D. of L.D. 1739/18 to V.A. Dover).

Enemy Air Activity. One enemy a/c was heard N.N.E. of N. Foreland 0002/18, and it is suspected that this may have been a further attempt at minelaying, but there is as yet no confirmation. (I.C. 0394/40).

INGER MARIE Danish fishing boat, stated on returning to port that a German a/c dropped 2 bombs during the night (? date) without hitting his ship (Press). Captain Nielsen.

PROTINUS sunk. Dutch fishing vessel, 202 tons, No. 85 from Ymuiden, attacked while fishing by one a/c with bombs and machine-gun fire, although ship was marked in 7 places with Dutch markings. Captain and one deck hand k, and 2 of the 8 survivors, who were wounded, died of exposure in the boat. Position of attack near Middle Rough Bank. Hit twice and sank. (V.A.(S) 1759/29).

War Diary

19.3.40.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

S/m's attacked

1551 — By A/S trawlers ASTON VILLA, C. PASSARO, and GAUL, 7 attacks in 59° 07'N, 5° 55'W, 2'W. of N. Rona. Attacked good contact. (I.C. 0395/40) Large quantity of oil observed. (F.O.C.O.S. 1551/19)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked

VIVAGEL
false report — SSSS 34° 40' 7" N, 0° 7' W (VIVAGEL 1020/19)
Cancel submarine distress (VIVAGEL 1115/19)

GAROET
? mined — Dutch S.S. GAROET, when in vicinity of Fairy Bank Buoy, paravane towing wire parted following small explosion. Slight shock felt. Expert examination of wire and paravane not possible while ship was in Downs, but GAROET sailed in prize for Falmouth a.m. today. (V.A. Dover, 1830/19)

MINSK ?2300
sunk 2245 — Danish, 1229 tons, Manchester to Esbjerg in Kirkwall, torpedoed 30 miles N.W. of Kinnaird Head 58° 7'N, 2° 39'W. H.M.S. ESK picked up nine survivors at 1050/21 and landed them at Aberdeen. Not in convoy. 11 of crew unaccounted for (C-in-C Rosyth 1852/21, 2233/21, ESK 1248/21)..

CHARKOW about
sunk 2100 — Danish, 1026 tons, in ballast for Methil, was 3 miles ahead of MINSK when torpedoed. No heard of since. Not in convoy. (C-in-C Rosyth 1852/21, 2233/21) One body recovered from raft by M/S BRABANT 1915/22. (C-in-C Rosyth 1931/22) Presumed sunk by torpedo (I.C. 0397/40) (A/S.W.D. 201).

Estimated dispositions

It is thought all larger U.B.'s may have been withdrawn at present and there is no evidence that any have yet been sent out to take their places. (D.D.I.C. 1158/19)

S/m's reported

1839 — N.W. of Orkneys, position indefinite. (I.C. 0395/40) (D.D.I.C. 1941/19)

2029 — Reported by trawler at 2000/19 in 60° 40'N, 02° 03'W. (31 m. N. of Foula Island).

1915 — Report from 2 soldiers of M.8 A/A battery that they had seen a submarine surface in Holm Sound. A/S precautions taken. Consider report was false. (A.C.O.S. 1018/20)

2000 — Fishing vessel reports s/m in position 60° 40'N, 2° 03'W., Course 180° at 2000/19. (C-in-C Rosyth 1330/20).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

South Atlantic

KONIGSBERG — Admiral Martinique reports loading rubber at Para. Could sail 20/3 (S.O.I. Kingston 1145/19) (D.N.I. 1342/19)

China

SONECK
FRANCKEN — SONECK under arrest, reported to have discharged cargo to FRANCKEN by arrangement between their masters without knowledge of owners agents. Both ships at Padang. (D.S.)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

BORBECK	Now loading Narvik (D.D.I.C. 2025/19, Narvik 1352/19).
OLDENBURG EUROPA OSLEBSHAUSEN	Loaded and sailed 19/3 (D.D.I.C. 2025/19, Narvik 1352/19).
EMSHORN	Arrived Narvik 19/3 (Narvik 1352/19)
PRIAMUS	Arrived Trondheim (Trondheim 1700/19)
TREUENFELS	Arrived Gothenburg (Gothenburg 1240/19)
Ships in Norway	Positions of German merchant ships in Norwegian waters noon 19/3 (D.N.I. 1340/19)
Refrigerator Ship	German refrigerator ship expected shortly Svolvaer, Lofoten Island, to load fresh fish for Germany (Tromsoe, 1809/19)

America and West Indies

ALEMANIA	Curacao,	fuel supplied,	400 tons	fuel oil.
ESTE	"	"	100 "	coal
PATRICIA	"	"	900 "	gas oil
VANCOUVER	"	"	1800 "	fuel oil
HENRY HORN	"	"	100 "	gas, 450 tons diesel oil.

(S.O.I. Kingston 0845/19)

North Atlantic

HELIOS	Reported sailed from Guadalquivir 1000 (F.O.C.N.A. 1202/19) Cancelled (F.O.C.N.A. 1535/19)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (continued)

Algiers Fuel Shortage

Algiers reports until fuel replenished Algiers and Oran not suitable for bunkering British merchant ships. (S.O.I. Malta, 1821/19)

NEA HELIAS stopped

Enemy propaganda states NEA HELIAS, Greek, stopped in territorial waters and taken Malta. Presumably this refers to 0341/27/2 from CALEDON. Request material for a reply. (D.E.W.D. 1726/19) (Reply 20/3)

Ballast Clearance Passes

Arrangements have been made for issue by British and French Consuls of "Ballast Clearance Passes" which exempt neutral ships in ballast from calling at a contraband control base for enemy export examination. British or French Consuls in Mediterranean and Black Sea areas will inform you of the issue of a ballast clearance. (D.E.W.D., to C-in-C Med. 1758/19)

Australia and New Zealand

U.S.2

EAGLE will be unable owing to accident, to join slow group of US 2 at Fremantle. Considered RAMILLIES and SYDNEY will afford adequate protection and reconnaissance for the smaller group and it is not proposed to provide a relief for EAGLE (D.O.D.(F) 0001/19)

China

Prospective U-boat base

Completely reliable source reports presence of buildings and searchlights at Trinity Bay (Whale Bay) 45 miles S.W. Vladivostock. (cf. report about a week ago that Germans had leased an area in Whale Bay for use as s/m base) (N.I.D. XI/31)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies (continued)

Submarines proceeding Halifax

Adty. 2330/6/3 and 1604/13/3. Request contents of my 1209/13/11/39 be communicated to all submarines proceeding Halifax. In view of message QJA 11 first sentence should be amended to read: "Submarines approaching Halifax are to proceed on the surface and should arrive in daylight and pass through position 44° 00'N, 63° 15'W., thence proceeding on course 345° by searched channel JA 6". (F.O.C.3 B.S. 1723/19)

QUEEN MARY MAURETANIA

D. of S.T. 1202/12 and 1203/12, sailing of QUEEN MARY and MAURETANIA, N.C.S.O, New York, reports owners' agents in New York have just received completely different orders from London. Please confirm. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1341/19)

ALGERIE

Destroyer and air escort to meet 15 miles W. of Sambro lightship. (C.O.A.C. 1114/19)
F.O.C. 3B.S. 1028/19 see 18/3.

Mediterranean

RECCO Italian protest

Italian tanker, diverted to Malta for control arrived 1615/19 had to remain under way all night unable to berth in Marsa Scirocco to which she was ordered. Request report (D.E.W.D. 1943/19) Reply 21/3.

Merchant ships zig-zagging

All British merchant ships in Area 2. Unless a U-boat is reported merchant ships other than transports need not zig-zag whilst in Meditn. East of Malta (C-in-C Mediterranean 1346/19)

Palestine Shipping

Adty. 2210/18. S.S. ALBANIJA, 285 tons, lighter PLAVNITZA, 800 tons cargo, 4 lighters 60 tons of cargo each, etc. All ships now at Kotor, Yugoslavia (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1030/19).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

HELIOS German ship	Cancel my 1202, requesting investigation of sighting German ship HELIOS. Proceed in execution of previous orders (F.O.C.N.A. to WISHART, 1535/19).
French Forces	Positions, Convoys and Patrols (D.C. 0006/19)
Boundary Line	Between Western Approaches and North Atlantic Commands (to coincide with boundary between Admirals Nord and West) Adty. 1445. Concur (C-in-C W.A. 1919/19) Concur but propose Oporto remain in my Intelligence area (F.O.C.N.A. 1314/20)
WISHART CHACAL	Your 1817/16. WISHART to join French cruiser CHACAL 21/3. (F.O.C.N.A. to C-in-C W.A. 1854/19)

South Atlantic

German units	S.O.(I) Montevideo's 2127/18 (re. DEUTSCHLAND and ADMIRAL SCHEER). Is there later information than that contained in Adty. 1601/3? (C-in-C S.A. 0923/19)
French Intelligence	D.N.I.'s 1748/16 and my 1439/17. French N.A. Rio de Janeiro states intelligence of this sort received from French colonial source generally unreliable. Only from French Naval source can intelligence regarding South America be accepted as reliable. (A.N.A. Rio 0959/19)

America and West Indies

AUSONIA. BEVEZIERS	Intend sailing AUSONIA and French s/m BEVEZIERS as escort for HX 29 on 21/3. AUSONIA to proceed U.K. for leave and refit. Request escort for BEVEZIERS from Scilly Is. to Brest. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1027/19)

19.3.40.
Tuesday

War Diary

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

Foreign Stations

AQUITANIA — See 17/3. Description of damage. To proceed Table Bay or Simonstown (C-in-C S.A. 1245/19)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

Home Commands

JERVIS	in collision YXSE 3534 0300 approx. with Swedish S.S. TORS now proceeding Tyne. JAVELIN, JANUS standing by. (Capt. D7 0314/19, C-in-C Rosyth 0456/19, 0504/19) Extensive hull damage above and below w.l. 2.d., 15 missing from JERVIS (Capt. D7 0500/19) Reached Tyne 115/19.
MACKAY	Minor upper deck damage due to weather (MACKAY 0418/19)
S.S. ALBIONIC	Reported 0206 that she was on fire off Lundy Island and later that her crew had taken to boats. Later reported out of danger and lifeboat standing by. (Burnham on Sea Radio intercept 0620, 0612/19, intercept 0541, 0648/19, Portishead Radio 0239/19, ALBIONIC 0206/19) Proceeded up Bristol Channel under own steam with tugs in attendance (T.Divn. C&S Sect.)
NEWCASTLE	Recommending she refit at South Shields on completion of GLASGOW (C-in-C H.F. 1309/19)
EDINBURGH	To be taken in hand 20/3 (N.O.I.C. Newcastle upon Tyne 2030/19)
ASTURIAS	Anticipate rudder defect will delay completion from 9/4 to end of April (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1835/19)
S.S. ASTRA	Engine broken down 250 miles W. Malin Head send salvage boat (Balentia Radio 2110/19) Tug ENGLISHMAN dispatched (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0200/20) Tug was diverted, see CILICIA collision 20/3) No tug yet (C-in-C Rosyth 1343/23 intercept 0927 G.M.T. from ASTRA)
VIMIERA S.S. CLERMISTON	VIMIERA in minor collsion with S.S. CLERMISTON on 17/3 during passage of FN 22 Convoy. Damage unimportant (VIMIERA 1434/19).
H.M.S. LADY PHILOMENA LOWDOCK	A/S trawler LADY PHILOMENA in collision with trawler LOWDOCK of Fleetwood about 2230/19 five miles E. of Todd Head. LOWDOCK sank immediately. Mate T. Atkinson of Fleetwood sole survivor. (C-in-C Rosyth 0837/20) Sunk 20/3 (T.D. C & S Section BMSM No. 14 21/3)

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

W/T heard — Unknown station heard transmitting (C-in-C H.F. 0050/19)

Pocket battleships — Your 2127/18. One pocket battleship was located by aircraft in dry dock at Wilhelmshaven 2/3. No reliable information concerning the other p.b. but she is believed to have been in German waters on 1/3 (D.C.N.S. 1401/19 to S.O. (I) Montevideo.

My 1941/19. More than one unit may be in vicinity. (D.C. 2018/19)

German torpedo — Ashore and secured 4 miles south of Bridlington (R.M.S.O. 0725/19) Description (R.M.S.O Bridlington 1835/19)

Russian s/m's — I learn Germans have sent s/m instructions and experts to Murmansk, Vladivostock, Odessa and Kronstadt, to get Soviet s/m's into working order. Instruments being sent and expected that 110 to 125 s/m's can be rendered first-class. (Sir R. Campbell, Paris No. 222 Saving 19/3 to F.O.) Unlikely that these technicians and instruments could be spared from Germany. Report is probably propaganda. Number of s/m's fantastic (N.I.D. XI/31)

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous (continued)

Mails, removal from BERGENSFJORD DROTTNINGHOLM — U.S. authorities New York have refused clearance to Norwegian BERGENSFJORD, DROTTNINGHOLM unless they carry mails contrary to agreement with us under which they would have been exempted from call at Kirkwall.
As mails have been forced on them assurances given for current voyage only that these 2 ships will not be diverted to Kirkwall.
Most desirable that mails be removed at sea unless weather forbids. Quantity probably small. Date of sailing probably to-day but will be confirmed (D.E.W.D. 0845/19 to V.A.N.P.)

Sabotage — 3 incendiary bombs found in S.S. FINTRA (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1234/19)

Boundary — Desirable that boundary between W.A. and North Atlantic Commands should coincide with that between Admirals Ouest and Afrique. Proposed new common line is parallel of 41° N. (D.O.D.(F) 1445/19) Concur (C-in-C W.A. 1919/19)

Scapa defence — In my 1043/23/10/39 I first advised provision for large labour battalion at Scapa and have done so several times since. It is still an urgent requirement. There are numerous works which have made little or no progress on which labour battalion should be employed (C-in-C H.F. 1303/19)

Ice report. — (F.O.C.N.P. 2147/19) (N.A. Copenhagen, 1900/19)

Weather

	0500 Wind	Visibility
North Sea North	S.E. gale	Moderate but poor in rainstorms
South	S. to S.S.W. strong	Moderate to good.
Horns Reef	S.E. moderate	Poor, rain and local fog.
Channel	S.S.W. strong	Moderate
W. Approaches	S.W. to W. strong to gale	Good.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (continued)

Ships sunk ex Narvik See 18/3 Enemy Intelligence

Your 1215/18. Following ships sunk enemy action Narvik to United Kingdom:-
STRINDHEIM, Norway, off Tyne, 15th December.
POLZELLA, Britain, off Shetlands, 17th January.
DEPTFORD, Britain, ¼ mile off Stadt, 13th December
No other attacks homeward bound ships known
(D.N.I. to Consul, Narvik, 1801/19)

Fast and slow convoys

Reports indicate that insufficient use is being made of G.S. and S.A. convoys, and unsuitable ships are being included in FN and FS convoys, may be due to fact that masters anxious to join faster convoys are making false reports about their speeds. N.C.S.O.'s to endeavour to allocate vessels to their appropriate convoys and to refrain from drawing unnecessary attention to fact that S.G. and G.S. are slower than F.N. and F.S. (D.T.D. 1917/19)

FINTRA sabotage

3 incendiary bombs found in bunker in S.S. FINTRA almost, certainly put on board at Sane on 13/3. Police informed (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 1234/19)

Miscellaneous

Suspicious ships VERDE

VERDE, Dutch, English owned left Ymuiden 16/3 for Caen. British S.S. RYE on arrival Flushing reported seeing Dutch ship marked with Dutch flag and named VERDE steering E. and acting suspiciously close to W. Hinder Buoy about 1600/16. Consider it possible ship seen by RYE was not genuine VERDE but German ship masquerading under Dutch flag and name of VERDE (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1500/19)

STOCKHOLM

N.C.S.O. Copenhagen see Shipping.

Oil for Swedish ship

Swedish Adty. consulted me as to safe anchorage for refuelling destroyer from Swedish PATRICIA during return voyage from Spezia to Sweden starting about 1/4, distance from Vigo to Faroe Is. being beyond destroyer capacity. Suggested Bantry, Tralee, or Loch Swilly. Any Adty. objection? (A.N.A. Stockholm 1522/19)

Gunfire heard

0350 to 0455, 200 to 300 rounds off Berwick. (C-in-C Rosyth 0620/19) Cancel, entirely false report (C-in-C Rosyth 1036/19)

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Consular Clearances — My 1335/26/1. Have now been put into force, and will be issued by British and French Consuls. (D.E.W.D. 1532/19)

Routeing Dutch and Belgian ports — My 2001/18. Heavy draught ships may now be sailed, routed in accordance with My 0025/12, thence through following positions:- (a) 180° Fairy Bank Buoy 3 miles, (b) 51° 19'N 01° 42.4' E. (c) 180° North Goodwin light vessel 5 cables. (D.T.D. 1233/19) Your 1020. Concur (D.T.D. 1231/19 to C-in-C Nore)

BLACKHEATH — Sails 1900/19. (N.C.S.O. Blyde, 1230/19)

Swedish ships inspection — Swedish shipowners wish to know if ships can now be inspected at Halifax or Kingston instead of Kirkwall, also assembly port for convoys for United Kingdom for ships from Panama Canal (A.N.A. Stockholm 1638/19)

Light draught ships — Adty. 2001/18. Have arrangments been made for C.C. of light draught ships sailing to and from Dutch and Belgian ports now that they will not pass through the Downs (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1050/19 to Adty.)

Leave ships — Question of whether they are to be allowed to sail without air escort (Air Min. 1705/19)

Ballast Clearance passes — Issue of (see FOREIGN STATIONS, Mediterranean)

Route to and from Downs — For eastbound heavy draught traffic consequent on mining of TINA PRIMO (C-in-C Nore, 1020/19)

Routeing Bristol Channel — Ships sailing in convoy bound for Bristol Channel ports should be directed to call at Mildord Haven for onward routeing instructions (D.T.D. 1235/19)

STOCKHOLM Master — Adty. 1344/18. Petersen remains in command. Expect to sail or Methil 20/3. Ref. Adty. 1835/13. Can he sail with convoy or be given route instructions? (N.C.S.O. Copenhagen, 1915/19) Reply No. (D.N.I. 2340/20)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (continued)

German mines (continued) Reports of floating mines in the Channel have almost ceased and off Kentish coast they are much reduced. A few reports are coming in from the N.W. corner of British declared area (N.I.D. 01507/39)

Operation PA 4 Orders. (R.A. Invergordon 1443/19) Postponed 24 hours owing to weather (N.O.I.C. Invergordon 1752/19)

Traffic resumed between the Thames and Downs and Dutch ports resumed (See 17/3)

Shipping

Convoys

Positions	(D.C. 1920/19)
ON 20	Has arrived Norway, but was considerably scattered in recent gale. (D.C.N.S. 197)
HN 20	Sailed p.m. 18/3 with SHEFFIELD as cover (D.C.N.S. 197) (D.T.D. 1230/19)
OG 22	Sailing telegram (C-in-C W.A. 1052/19, 1058/19)
ON 21	Sailings (N.C.S.O. Methil 1142/19) Sailed 1700 (N.C.S.O. Methil 0947/19, 1717/19, D.T.D. 1809/19) (C-in-C Rosyth 2220/19)
HN 21	Already filled. Anticipate rate of ships applying will increase. Discontent caused if excluded. Request instructions. (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1131/19) (Reply 20/3) Your 1131/19 How many ships do you anticipate will want to sail in HN 21 (D.T.D. 1703/19) Your 1703/19 To judge by last 2 days probably 60 ships (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 2009/19)
OA 112	Arriving Lizard 1700/20. (WOLVERINE 2000/19)
OB 113 GF	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Mersey 2140/19) Details (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 2137/19)
HGF 23	Destinations (D.T.D. 2204/19)
OBM 112	Sailed (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1410/19)

HOME COMMANDS

Air (continued)

at, result unknown. Many hits on station, including 8 bursts near hangars, 4 direct hits on one hangar, several hits near oil storage tanks where flames noticed, also on jetty and light railway. Hits on living quarters. Southernmost hangars observed burning. Our aircraft is believed to have violated Danish neutrality (H.Q. Bomber Cmd. 1250/20) Kalundborg Radio (1900/20) stated that 4 bomb craters were formed at Faroe (Denmark, 15 miles N. of Sylt) and a few others at various places, but little damage was done.

Attack on Flak Ships — Two naval auxiliary vessels bombed. No hits (H.Q. Bomber Cmd. 2015/19) Thought to be STRAHL and DRACHE (H.Q. Bomber Cmd. 0615/20)

Air Reconnaissance — My 1730/15. All air searches cancelled on account of weather except 03 and escort for HN 20 and ON 21 (C-in-C Rosyth 1134/19)

Aircraft crash — on passage to ARGUS. No casualties. Machine wrecked (D.N.A.D. 1850/19)

Balloons — Casualties Thames Barrage 5, 2 due to lightning, 3 adrift. (H.Q. Balloon Cmd. 1220/19) 3 more adrift. (H.Q. Balloon Cmd. 1330/19) One more adrift and 5 from Harwich (H.Q. Balloon Cmd. 1535/19) Ten more destroyed by lightning Thames Barrage (H.Q. Balloon Cmd. 1720/19)

Mining

Minesweeping reports — Nil, weather (N.O.I.C. Swansea 2140/19, N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1748/19)
Curtailed, weather (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2041/19, V.A. Dover 2004/19 " " 2000/19)
Aberdeen, Peterhead nil, weather (C-in-C Rosyth 1853/19)
Parachute see Air-Enemy activity.

German mines — Experience shows that German moored mines continue to rise for some weeks after a mine-field is discovered and that buoys close to a channel tend to attract magnetic minelaying. Proposals for proposed searched channel (C-in-C Nore, 1158/19)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation D.U. (continued) — Ships taking part (2nd C.S. and 8 destroyers) are at Scapa.

s/m's on patrol Capt.(S)3 1800/19 in Bight — Orders for SEAL, THISTLE, TRIAD consequent on postponement of Operation D.U. (R.A.(S) 1642/18, 1929/19)

Air

Enemy air activity — Air attack on aerodromes may be expected tonight or on subsequent nights as reprisal for attack on Sylt (D.C.N.S. 2012/19, Air Min. 2100/19)

Several, possibly minelaying, raids were reported off the N. Foreland and Thames Approaches between midnight and 0200/19.

Parachute apparently moored to submerged object sighted 1200/18. 6 cables W. of Shingles Patch No. 3 Buoy by S.S. BRITISH GENIUS (N.C.S.O. London 1730/19)

Air attack, date unknown.

MARRI — Danish fishing boat bombed and machine-gunned by one aircraft (Press).

PROTINUS ? date — See 25/3

NORDSDE — Danish fishing cutter machine-gunned by 2 aircraft. Crew cut fishing tackle and sailed northward. Planes pursued it and dropped bombs. No hits, no casualties. (Press)

Air raid — on German seaplane station Hornum. (30 Whitley and 20 Hampden bombers were used. 3 failed to reach objective. 20 tons of bombs were dropped.) All but one aircraft returned safely. First reports appear satisfactory. (D.C. 0800/20) One large vessel like warship seen 60 miles W. of Nornum, 3 possible Flak ships, one s/m, 6 destroyers (H.Q. Bomber Cmd. 0535/20) One Whitley aircraft missing. Weather conditions over target clear moonlight gradually clouding over towards morning. Intense A/A fire experienced. One enemy fighter approached our aircraft, sheered off when fired at. One enemy float plane encountered, fired

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

5 Capital ships, 5 cruisers at Scapa.
C-in-C RODNEY, with WARSPITE, VALIANT, RENOWN, REPULSE and 15 destroyers left Scapa 1500/19 for Operation D.U. (Seep Operations)

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes	Trawlers
Faroes to Iceland	2 cruisers, 8 A.M.C.'s
Denmark Strait	1 cruiser, 2 A.M.C.'s

1st C.S. to work from Clyde as before. Ships to return the e on next occasion of leaving patrol (C-in-C H.F. 1301/19)

s/m's

0700/20 (R.A.(S) 1709/19, 2034/19, D.C. 2203/19 Capt.(S)6 2001/19

MACKAY — Hove to, weather. Minor upper deck damage. 50° 34'N, 10° 36'W (MACKAY 0418/19)

INTREPID — Entered Aberdeen owing to state of sea. (INTREPID 2350/18, N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0030/19)

B.E.F. Maintenance. — Programme for period 24-31/3 (D.O.D.(H) 1934/19) (Routes Southampton to Havre and Cherbourg.)

Operations

ALTMARK — Whole crew of ALTMARK deserted after removal of British prisoners by COSSACK and had to be rounded up by Norwegian police. A further attack was feared and the Captain was not reassured there was no further danger until a Norwegian warship anchored across the entrance to the fjord (Rear-Admiral Boyes).

Operation D.U. — Battle Fleet to operate in support of Operation D.U. and to sweep up Norwegian coast to endeavour to intercept shipping outside territorial waters (C-in-C H.F. 1147/19) Operation D.U. postponed a further 24 hours (F.O.C.S.2 1755/19) It is a beautiful calm evening out here (Home Fleet was then about 25 miles North of 59° 12'N, 3° 51'W) (C-in-C H.F. 1926/19) Your 1926 my 1755 was based on Adty. 1234 received 1700 and forecast obtained from NORFOLK. Destroyers now employed hunting s/m's reported in Holm Sound surfacing near blockships at 1730 and 1810 which may have entered Flow (F.O.C. 2C.S. 2240/19) The operation will take place on nights 21 and 22/3.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines reported

One, possibly two, patrolling in vicinity of Orkneys. No other reliable reports (I.C., 0395/40). (D.D.I.C., 1215/20).

1400 One submarine bearing and distance unknown, position 4423 0829 at 1400 (Admiral, West, 1735). Attack enemy submarine reported in 44:23 N., 08:29 W., reliable fix, at 1500 (A.C.W.A., 1755/20). FOLKESTONE hunting. (FOLKESTONE, 1800/20). My 1755. 1 French destroyer and 2 patrol vessels in the vicinity. (C. in C. W.A., 1955/20). Submarine reported 44:23 N., 08:29 W. at 1400. Capt. (D)9 ordered to attack. (D.N.I., 1902/20, to F.O.C.N.A.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked

PHOBOS, mined, damaged. 0730. Dutch, 7412 tons, mined about 0730, 4 miles E. of N. Goodwin (I.C., 0395/40) In the new proposed channel, 51:21 N., 1:42 E. Anchored with heavy list 103 deg. North Goodwin L., 8.5 miles BRILLIANT standing by and tugs sent. (V.A. Dover, 1106/20, 1735/20). (N. Foreland Radio, 0843/20, 0845/20, 0855/20). Crew abandoned ship. Towed into small Downs. Mate killed. 13 officers and 39 Chinese landed. Two injured Chinese taken on board Greek TASSIA bound for Antwerp. Probably damaged by magnetic mine. (V.A., Dover, 1806/21) See Mining 22/31. Later investigation points to a contact mine. (D.C., 26/3).

BOTHAL Torpedoed, sunk. 0500. Danish 2109 tons, torpedoed without warning. 5 survivors of crew of 20 picked up 58:21 N., 2:22 W., by Wick lifeboat and landed 30-40 miles E. of Pentland Firth at 0610/21. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0719/21). Not in convoy. Two explosions at 15 seconds interval. In ballast Frederickshaven for Blyth in company. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1700/21, 0948/21).

VIKING Torpedoed, sunk. 0510. Danish, 1153 tons, torpedoed without warning 30-40 miles E. of Pentland Firth. 2 survivors of crew of 17 picked up by Wick lifeboat, 58:21 N., 2:22 W. and loaded at 0610/21. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0719/21, 0948/21). Not in convoy. She was half a mile astern of BOTHAL and also hit by 2 torpedoes at about ½ minute interval and 10 minutes after BOTHAL. In ballast Frederickshaven for Blyth in company. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1700/21). Raft found by aircraft which guided trawler to it JSBP 0726 (Donibristle, 1655/22).

ALGIER sunk Danish, 910 tons, New York to Copenhagen, had called Kirkwall, torpedoed. (? time) 4 of crew and 1 woman passenger drowned. 18 survivors landed Scalloway on West coast of Shetlands. (F.O.C.O.S. 1825/20). (A/S.W.D. 201). Probably sunk in same area as CHRISTIANSBORG.
See also 21/3.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

North Atlantic

LUCY ESSBERGER — Reported about to be transferred to Portuguese flag under name SACOR and proceed from Cadiz to Lisbon. (A.I) (D.C., 0147/21).

China.

My 0940/15. Sourabaya reports information for reliable source German ship at Sourabaya intends bombing 25/3 and in event of sailing will shelter off trade routes until initial search is relaxed. Medan reports no indication of any movement at Sabang at present. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0801Z/20).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

BORBECK	Sailed from Narvik with ore 20/3 (Gibbs, Narvik, 1125/20, C. in C. H.F., 1811 /20).
ASIEN	Has arrived Narvik (do).
BOCHUM	Now loading Narvik (D.D.I.C., 1811/20) (Narvik, 1125/20).
AMERIKA	Now loading Narvik (D.D.I.C., 1811/20) (Narvik, 1125/20).
	Intercepted ship reports large tanker suspected German in 55:38 N., 20:00 W., on 17/3 heading toward Denmark Strait. (V.A.N.P., 2345/20).
JOHANN BLUMENTHAL	My 1255/17 (B.3) Local shipping agent states ship will leave here Saturday pm. 23/3 in time to drop pilot at approach of darkness and will then cross direct to Danish Coast. (Oslo, 2315/20).
CHARLOTTE CORDS	Delayed by weather. Definitely sailing tonight Thursday (!) (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 1208/21).

America & West Indies

RHEIN	Which has been at Tampico since 14/9 is reported to be trans shipping to Norwegian WYVERN a large cargo of scrap iron for Japanese ports (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1724/20).
COLUMBUS	Ministry of Foreign Affairs state about 60 of crew embarked in Italian FELLA 27/2 at San Francisco proceeding to Italy via Panama. Will be repatriated overland to Germany, all over 52, hope ship will not be inconvenienced or delayed (Sir P. Loraine, Rome to F.O. No. 256(R) 20/3).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australis & New Zealand

Your 2359/18. Govt. uneasy whether escort proposed from N.Z. to Australia and thence to 160° E. is strong enough. (N.Z. Naval Board 1856/20 to Admiralty).

Reply. Escorts are considered adequate but AUSTRALIA could join trans Tasman escort in N.Z. if desired (Austr. C'wealth, N.B. 0240Z/21).

EAGLE
RAMILLIES
SYDNEY

Admiralty 0001/19, last sentence, concur. (Austr. C'wealth N.B. 1000Z/20).

Amerida & West Indies

MAURETANIA

Re. defensive arming (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1614/20).

China

V. MAYAKOVSKI

My 0259/16. KANIMBLA has fuelled and provisioned V. MAYAKOVSKI, expects to arrive Hong Kong with her 27/3. LIVERPOOL and oiler APPLELEAF are returning Hong Kong. (C. in C., China, 0251Z/20).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French positions 1200/20 (D.C. 0130/20)

Ocean Convoys etc. (D.C. 1826/20).

Boundary F.O.C.N.A. 1314/20 see 19/3.

Suspected Vessels Vice-Consul, Gijon, has received report that sailing ship VEIGUELA of Ferrol has been brought by Senor Collingwood, Vegadeo. Real owner believed to be German of Bilbao. Reported heavy oil engine will be fitted and suspected that fuel shipped for engine may be disposed of elsewhere. Hamburg-American Line agents, Von Jess, of Vigo, advertising for sailing vessel, 150 to 250 tons, preferably with auxiliary motor. B.2 report, firm is trying to secure 6 vessels of this type and suitable vessels will be inspected by 2 officers from German ships here and 2 men from Neptune Line, Barcelona. (Consul, Vigo, 2029/20).

South Atlantic

ULYSSES Sabotage Bunker fire at Cape Town, 18/3. Suspected sabotage. Ship sailing 20/3 for Freetown and U.K. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1631/20). No evidence of sabotage here (N.O.I.C., Durban, 1641/20).

Mediterranean.

NEA HELLAS. Greek interception Greek ship NEA HELLAS was stopped at 0215/27/2, 9 miles from land in position 37:07 N., 23:30 E. Master told boarding officer that he had received from me international code of signals A.M. Plain language signal made by me was "Stop, am sending officer". Copy of signal made by me was given to officer of armed guard and shown to Master, who realised how his mistake had arisen. Master never raised question of territorial waters to me or officer of armed guard. (CALEDON, 0951/20).

Mails in U.S. ships Nine sample bags landed from U.S.S. EXCHANGE for examination (C.C.S.O., Gib. No. 564 20/3 to F.O.).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

H.M.S. CILICIA) H.M.S. CARINTHIA)	In collision 0143/20 approx. 56:11 N. 8:20 W. now returning to Clyde. Tug ST. MELLONS to assist. Tug ENGLISHMAN proceeding. CILICIA unable to steer; request tug. (ENGLISHMAN was proceeding to assist Norwegian S.S. ASTRA) A/S screen provided. CILICIA seriously damaged, CARINTHIA standing by (CARINTHIA 0143/20, CILICIA 0235/20, 0400/20, F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0314/20, 0340/20, 0355/20, 0520/20, D.C. 0640/20). One destroyer of escort for tender C. to proceed with all despatch to provide A/S protection (R.A.(D) H.F. D.F. 0516/20) Send tub ST. MELLONS to assist CILICIA (D.C., 0640/20, to A.C.O.S.). Cancelled (1124/20). Tug MARAUDER to assist. (C.C.R.T., 1219/20, sailed at 1255, N.O.I.C., Milford Haven, 1256/20). Now GALLANT has arrived, CILICIA no longer requires us to stand by. Proceeding Greenock 0600 tomorrow. Fore peak and chain locker only flooded. (CARINTHIA, 1851/20). CILICIA ordered to Belfast, (F.O.C.N.P., 2012/20). Arrived (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0853/21). Tug MARAUDER, recalled. (C.C.R.T. 2254/20). CARINTHIA arrived Greenock, damage details (N.O.I.C., Greenock, 0755/21, 1908/21).
VERBANIA	Italian (6640 tons) Aarhus for Tyne, short of coal. Lost reported 1510/20, 61:8 N. 3:31 W. Tug WATERMEYER searching for her. (See 21/3).

War Diary

20.3.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

BALDER (Norwegian) captured by German SILVIE or SYLVIA (evidently armed auxiliary) off Homborsund doubtful if in territorial waters or not. Daily Telegraph gives date 1000/9. THYRA (Danish) Captured about same time (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 1236/20).

German ore ships tracks

Reported that German ships from Narvik now follow the Scandanavian coast until they reach the neighbourhood of Gottenburg and there cross over the Skaw. (Gawthrop, Oslo, 2315/20).

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous.

A/S Training — Time has come when regular weapon training, particularly A/S training on submarine targets must be insisted on. All asdic fitted vessels to have practice on submarine target at intervals if not more than 4 months. French have given permission for practice base to be instituted at Quiberon. Proposed scheme of training (D.A/S.W. 0113/20).

Suspected Ships STOCKHOLM — Your 1915/19. STOCKHOLM should not sail with convoy and should not be given route instructions similar to other ships (D.N.I. 2340/20).

Ice report — Kattegat free except some floating ice East of Anholt and near Swedish coast. Sound passable on E. side. Great Belt has ice drifting northwards near Sprogo. Little Belt closed (D.N.I. 1939/20).

WEATHER

0500	Wind.	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	S. gale Shetlands to Skagerrak. W. fresh elsewhere	Moderate	(Moderating (visibility (improving
Channel	W. fresh	Very good	Similar
W. Approaches	W. strong	very good	Similar
Horns Reef	S.W. moderate	Good	Similar

Enemy Intelligence

Contraband Control — SKODSBORG (Danish) stopped (?date) off Esbjerg and taken into a German port. Later released, with cargo after inspection. The owners have instructed the master to paint white Maltese crosses on her, and told him this will ensure safety against German attacks. The same instructions have been sent to S.S. AALBORG which is sailing in company (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1505/20)

War Diary

20.3.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Cromer Knoll danger area — As from today convoys were not swept through the Cromer Knoll danger area. The new channel having been established. (M.S. Summary No.22).

Sweeping Convoys — In order to test possibility of sweeping convoys throughout the entire length of the East Coast War Channel the M/S trawlers ROWAN and WALNUT sailed 20/3 on a trial searching sweep at 8 knots between May Is. Firth of Forth and Outer Dowsing off the Humber. (M.S. Summary No. 22).

Shipping

Convoys

ON 21 — 40 ships, escorted by 4 destroyers and 1 submarine, off Kinnaird Head (D.C.N.S.198)

HN 20 — 44 ships, escorted by 6 destroyers and an A/A cruiser and covered by SHEFFIELD, is near the Shetlands (D.C.N.S.198).

ON 21 — Escort. My 2220/18 amended. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1236/19).

HN 21 — Ships to sail 0600/20. (N.C.S.O., Aalsund, 1000/20).

HN Convoys — Your 2009/19. No possibility of running an additional convoy at present (D.T.D., 1116/20).

Belgian Warning — Belgian Newspaper "Ecco de la Bourse" says that on night 20/3 Belgian Shipowners and Captains of ships drawing more than fourteen feet of water received warnings not to sail through the fairways near the Dutch town of Flushing but to anchor their ships in Antwerp or Flushing. Reported that a British watship in the North Sea had stopped two small vessels flying Belgian and Dutch flags, but which were laying mines in the waters near the Dutch Narrow Channels called "Oostgat" and "Wielgien". Believed the two vessels had been seized and brought to England. It is feared that similar German camouflaged ships are laying mines, but up to now it has been impossible to get official conformation. (Daily Mail, Amsterdam).

War Diary

20.3.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

GOLDEN EAGLE
? date

On duty as patrol vessel has been attacked and bombed off East Coast (Evening Standard)

PROTINUS
? date

See 25/3.

THISTLEBRAE

Arrived Trondhjem 23/3 for repairs to engine caused by concussion due to bomb explosion close to ship 20/3 (N.C.S.O. Trondhjem, 1300/26).

A.C.O.S. Raid Warnings

Agreed that as from midnight 20/21 March air raid warning messages will not be sent to Orkneys and Shetlands by national warning system, and that A.C.O.S. will be vested with sole authority and responsibility for the initiation of air raid warning messages to civil and service authorities in this area. (D. of L.D., 2025/20).

Anticipated Enemy Raids

As result of last night's attack on Sylt, expected that enemy will retaliate against similar objectives as suitable occasions offer. Objectives may be aerodromes but also may be fleet anchorages or any naval establishment. Likely time of attack in immediate future is dusk or by night. ((D.O.D.(H), 1411/20).

A/C Reports

Reports of aircraft made by KASHMIR and ESCAPADE, eastward of Orkneys on 16/3, also, reports by VALOROUS off Firth of Forth on 17/3, were of such a low standard that their warning value was negligible. Obvious need for extreme rapidity in the initiation and transmission of enemy reports, particularly those dealing with aircraft. (D.D.OD.(H), 1320/20).

British Air Activity

Patrols to the north west of Scotland were flown. Other reconnaissance patrols were prevented by bad weather. Flights by aircraft of Bomber Command were made in the Heligoland Bight - Norderney area. A few bombs were dropped on patrol vessels without result.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Control of Civil Flying, Orkneys, Etc. X.162, 20/3, in three parts (Air Ministry, part I, 1825/20, part II, 1830/20, part III 1840/20).
Amended (Air Min. 1253/21).

Mining.

Sweeping Reports S.C.Z 64. One mine cut in 53:40:2 N., 00:15:6 E. (F.O. Humber, 2001/20).

No sweeping, weather. (N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1856/20), (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1802/20), (N.O.I.C., Swansea, 1745/20).

D.W.I. exploded one mine today in position one cable S.E. of wreck of LOWLAND, position of wreck 51:51:18 N., 1:29:48 E. (C. in C., Nore, 1910/20).

Summary to date Apart from casualties. 260 moored or contact mines and 67 magnetic mines have been accounted for up to date by various methods (M.S. Summary No. 22).

Sullom Voe Minefield Your 1244/18. Controlled minefield at Sullom Voe designed to provide a double line of mines in 2 separate minefields, consequently the expenditure of any one loop, or a defect, leaves the port fully defended. Case and maintenance of the field to be carried out as necessary by LINNET or RINGDOVE, operating from a base ship or Cromarty. It is not the intention to build a base at Sullom Voe. (T. & M. Dept. 1405/20).

Minelaying by neutrals Reported that two small vessels under Belgian and Dutch flags laying mines in waters near the Dutch narrow channels Oostgat and Wielgien stopped by a British warship. Feared that similar German camouflaged ships are laying mines. No official confirmation. (Daily Mail, Amsterdam).

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

At 1527 enemy aircraft were again reported 45 miles E. of Scapa on a southerly course approaching the ON convoy, presumably for the purpose of shadowing. Between 1715-1740 a number of enemy aircraft were located leaving the Bight on a N.W. course, and later 6 enemy aircraft were reported 26 miles off Peterhead.

Attack on 10th A/S S.F. Off Ness Head at 1853 and again at 1944.

WINDERMERE 1944 Attacked North of Kinnaird Head. Being towed into Aberdeen by IVANHOE. Has casualties (IVANHOE 0940/21). Was towed in 1130 by A/S trawler THIRLMERE. Severly damaged (C. in C. Rosyth 1251/21).

Various attacks Air raids taking place now (C. in C. Portsmouth 2312/20) The aircraft had previously been pursued by fighters as it passed Dover and had made off over French coast and evaded the fighters before the attack.

BARNHILL 2133 Bomber 50:34 N. 0:2 W. (Portishead Radio? 2133/20, Scapa 2243/20). Now on fire approx. 3 miles S.S.W. Beachy Head. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 2253/20). Niton Radio recd. 2142/ from BARNHILL. On fire. 27 survivors landed by Eastbourne lifeboat. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0240/21). Captain, 2nd officer, 4 others missing. (N.O.I.C., Newhaven, 0245/21). Direlict (N.O.I.C., Newhaven, 0300/21). She should have been in Convoy HX 25A but apparently had proceeded ahead for reasons unknown. Not armed. Abandoned. Total crew 34, 30 rescued, 4 missing, 7 in hospital, 1 dead this am. Vessel is now high and dry (C. in C. Portsmouth 1255/21, N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0831/21, RESOLVE tug went to rescue (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0048/21).

SALACON 1715 Attacked of Norfolk coast. See also 21/3.

War Diary

20.3.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

ERLING 1840
LINDOE 1857

Norwegian (1281 tons) damaged 59 miles E. Scapa returned to Kirkwall (A.C.O.S., 1258/21).

Attack on Convoy ON 21

HN 20 and DN 21 passed close to one another about 1900 east of the Orkneys, and the latter was attacked. Two skuas proceeded to join ON 21 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1344/20 says "proceeding to H.N.") also 3 Hurricanes from Wick at 1830, but the latter failed to find it. Attacks developed on ON 21 between 1840 and 2000.

The 2 Skuas made contact with 7 enemy aircraft and drove them off. They claim to have hit them all. No other aircraft made contact.

UTKLIPPAN (see below) was the only ship hit in the main portion of Convoy ON 21; the other ships damaged were in the Kirkwall and Methil sections of On 21 and HN 20.

Attack on

Convoy MARIA is being attacked 629 JSBP 51-5 (JANUS 1840/20, S.O. 10th A/S S.F. 1853/20). Attacked by 6 enemy aircraft (IVANHOE, 1930/20) JAVELIN 1957/20. Attacked by 2 Heinkels 1840-1952, one believed hit(JAVELIN 2031/20).

TORA ELISE

Norwegian 721 tons. Damaged and proceeding to Kirkwall. (IVANHOE 2200/20) 3 killed, 3 wounded.

SVINTA

Norwegian 1267 tons, hit, steam pipe burst. ?CYANUS (Norwegian) standing by have not made contact with JAVELIN. Am continuing with convoy to destination, my position LKBP 0020 (IVANHOE 1930/20) 59:ON. 1:40 W. (A.C.O.S. 2201/20). Abandoned and reported sinking. Tug sent to her assistance. She was torpedoed and sunk 2210/21, 4 miles off Copinsay while in tow of tug ST. MELLONS see U-boat Campaign. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1115/21, F.O.C.O.S. 0009/22, 1016/21, IVANHOE, 2200/20.

UTKLIPPAN 1957

Swedish 1599 tons hit by incendiary bomb. (JAVELIN, 2035/20).

PEET

Report by British members of SVINTA's crew Estonian ship PEET (2111 tons) in ON 21 hit by 3 bombs sank at once none saved (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1201/22). No information (D.N.I. 1913/23).

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Convoy HN 20 shadowed

Gladiators being despatched to ALICE now (C. in C. Rosyth 1300/20 to KASHMIR)
3 Blenheim aircraft being despatched, may be joined later by Battle Flight of 3 Hudsons (C. in C. Rosyth, 1338/20, 1700/20).
The Blenheims did not find the convoy, but the 3 Hudsons did and stayed with it until dark.

Reports of enemy aircraft (LONDONDERRY 0242/20 SHEFFIELD 1159/20, KASHMIR 1206/20, ELECTRA 1247/20, A.C.O.S., 1251/20, ELECTRA 1315/20)
The convoy was shadowed from 1220 to 1730, but not attacked.

Enemy aircraft has reported position of your convoy, attack probable shortly (C. in C., Rosyth, 1554/20,1556/20).

CAIRO 1205

Am engaging an enemy aircraft 207 WPZS 10 (CAIRO 1205/20).

Later there was an indication of an enemy aircraft down in the sea 72 miles N.W. of Texel (I.C. 0396/40). Crew was picked up by a Dutch trawler and landed at Ymuiden. (Press) Asking for details (D.N.I., 1947/22). Reply - Two German aircraft attacked trawler probably S. of Dogger Bank. One aircraft hit and came sown 1600/20 in 53:30 N. 3:40 E. German airmen stated trawler flew red pendant but no ensign. Am enquiring (N.A. Hague, 1330/23).

Attack on ships from Kirkwall for HN 20

1916 SCOTTISH 1916/20.

NORTHERN COAST 1930

British (1211 tons) damaged, returned to Kirkwall (A.C.O.S. 1258/21). She was one of 3 ships from Kirkwall for HN 20 escorted by SCOTTISH and IMPERIALIST. Position of attack 18 miles E. Copensay. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1251/21).

War Diary

20.3.40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

Tender C. One destroyer of escort diverted to assist CILICIA (R.A.(D) H.F. D.F. 0516/20).

NORFOLK escorted by 4 destroyers is on way from Scapa to dock at Glasgow to repair damage by air attack.

Proposed SUFFOLK be selected as second flagship in 1st C.S. (D.O.D. (H) 1803/20).

ARK ROYAL. Route to Gibraltar (A.C.W.A. 1154/20).

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 6 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 2 A.M.C's.

A/A Cruisers

Flag of Rear-Admiral J.G.P. Vivian hoisted in COVENTRY as Rear-Admiral, A/A Cruisers. (C. in C., Nore, 1201/20).

CURLEW to sail for Scapa soon as possible and act as ordered by F.O.C.O.S. for the defence of Scapa. (D.O.D.(H) 1141/20).

Submarines

Positions 0700/21. (D.C., 1920/20, R.A.(S) 1809/20).

Operations

ALTMARK

Norwegian authorities have sent telegram to ALTMARK to be prepared to sail at 24 hours notice. As yet no date fixed.

Evidently Swedish authorities are not anxious to havethe ship laying up in their waters. (Dormer, Oslo, 1500/20).

Reported that tug DRAUGEN owned by Fladman Salvage Co., Aalesund, towed ALTMARKfrom Josing Fjord (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 1321/20).

Operation D.U.

2nd C.S. and 8 destroyers sailed from Scapa 2330 to carry out the sweep into the Skagerrak.

War Diary.

21.3.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

CHRISTIANSBORG
sunk. 0315

Danish 3270 tons, Philadelphia to Copenhagen had called Kirkwall, torpedoed 36 miles W.N.W. of Sumburgh Head, Shetlands. 60° 17' N. 2° 49' W. (F.O.C.O.S. 1152/21) 60° 17' N. 2° 48' W. (I.C. 0397/40) DISCOVERY II rescued 24 out of crew of 25 and sank derelict by gunfire (A.C.O.S. 1223/22, V.A.N.P. 1817/22)

SVINTA
torpedoed -
sunk. 2210

Norwegian 1267 tons, which had been damaged in German air raids 20/2, was torpedoed and sunk at 2210/21, 4 miles off Copinsay, Orkney, while in tow of tug ST. MELLONS.
(F.O.C.O.S. 2257/21, 0609/22) 040° Copinsay 4.75 miles (F.O.C.O.S. 0009/22)
58° 57' N. 2° 36' W.

ALGIER ? a.m.
sunk. ? 2400/20

Danish (1654 tons) sunk by torpedo west of Shetlands (I.C.0397/40) 5 drowned, 18 survivors landed at Scalloway. See also 20/3.

S/M's reported.

2200

At about 2200/21 battery at north end of Burray Fired on what they thought was a submarine. At 0342/22 a complete swing was registered on No. 1 mine guard loop in Switha Sound and a section of 16 mines was fired. Divers are being sent out to investigate. (A.C.O.S. 1017/22) See 22/2.

1922
a.m.

S/M bearing 45° from Pointe Quenard (C. in C. Charbourg 2305/21) By S.S. MERRIX 49° 46' N. 2° 8' W (3 miles (Customs Guernsey 1922/21) N.E. Quenard Pt. Alderney (Officer of Customs Guernsey 1922/21)

1600

Doubtful report by PARAME 50° 56' N, 05° 03' W, southerly course. (C. in C. W.A. 0500/22, 1127/22)

1144

By NORTHERN REWARD S/M bearing 259° 3 miles approx. true course 90° from 020° Cape Wrath 98 miles (NORTHERN REWARD 1144/23).

<u>North Atlantic.</u>

1400

Portuguese schooner reports spoke 2 U-boats near Cape Sinej, W. coast. Portugal steering S. in territorial waters (F.O.C.N.A. 1152/23)

War Diary. 21.3.40.
Thursday1

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands.

JOHANN BLUMENTHAL — Adty. 1227/21. SEAL to proceed towards Arendal at 0001/23 to intercept. (R.A.(S) 2234/21)

2 German merchant vessels leaving Borkum tonight for Rotterdam (A.2) (N.A. Hague 1823/21)

North Atlantic.

LUCY ESSBERGER. — Tanker 881, tons, now at Cadiz. Reported she is to be transferred to Portuguese flag and renamed SACOR (D.C.0147/21)

South Atlantic.

KONIGSBERG — British Consul, Para, reports loaded wax and oil seeds, reported to be preparing to load rubber. Can clear officially and leave any time. (S.O.(I) Freetown 0745/21)

War Diary.

21.3.40.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

HEDDERNHEIM intercepted sunk.	At 2113/21 the HEDDERNHEIM, which had passed Haugesund southbound from Narvik on 18/3 was intercepted by H.M.S. URSULA 8 miles east of the Skaw and sunk 8 miles off coast after crew abandoned ship by order 0100/22 in flat calm. (D.C. 2317/21) URSULA 0100/22) 57° 47' N. 10° 58' 30" E. (N.C.S.O. Copenhagen 1740/22) Chief Engineer taken prisoner (captain escaped owing to disguise as seaman) Patrol Report of URSULA, 16/3 to 25/3, (V.A.S. No. 28/S.M. 1068, 2/4./40.
EUROPA	My 1646 report of additional German M.V. EUROPA in BQOX 0746 course south coastal at 1030. (C. in C. Rosyth 1836/22)
HELENE RUSSE	Sighted by special flight into Skagerrak in cooperation with the sweep by naval forces, 25 miles E. of Kristiansand south, steering a S.W. course (C. in C. Rosyth 1648/21 A/C 1045/21, 1210/21 Denibristle 1635/21).
EMS HORN	Arrived Narvik (Gibbs, Narvik 1303/21)
AMERIKA	Left Narvik with ore (Gibbs, Narvik 1303/21) (D.C. 1949/21)
BOCKUM	Loading, ore Narvik (Gibbs, Narvik 1303/21)
ERIKA HENDRIK FISSER.	Loading ore, Narvik (Gibbs, Narvik 1303/21)
PRIAMUS	Arrived Trondheim probably ferŕ ore. (D.D.I.C. 1227/21)
JURGEN FRITZEN	Arrived Gothenburg with coal (D.N.I. 2251/21)
NEUENFELS	Left Gothenburg (D.N.I. 2251/21) (Gothenburg 1730/21)
NORDSTERN	Left Gothenburg (D.N.I. 2251/21) (Gothenburg 1730/21)
CHARLOTTE CORDS.	Leaving Rotterdam (D.C. 1722/21) SUNFISH ordered to intercept (Capt. (S)3.2043/21, 0035/22)

War Diary.

21.3.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

U.S.2. My 1702/15 and 1203/12 in regard to itinerary of QUEEN MARY to Australia and subsequently in U.S.2 Requirement bunkers and water at ports concerned (D. of S.T. 1228/21) Your 1228/21 confirmed. (Australian N.B. 03412/22)

America and West Indies.

QUEEN MARY MAURETANIA cover for. You are no doubt taking steps to cover movements of QUEEN MARY and MAURETANIA from A.M.C. raider without actually providing them with escort. D.O.D.(F) 1829/21) Your 1829 confirmed. Arrangements made for DUNDEE, PENZANCE, local, escort 4 French aircraft, DESPATCH and ASSINBOINE (C. in C. A.W.I. 2255/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French positions. At 1300/21. (D.C. 0035/21)

Convoys. Positions. (D.C. 1840/21)

South Atlantic.

Removal of Germans from Neutral ships. in Union ports. Union Govt. unwilling to do so automatically but will grant request in specific cases; would however prefer removal to take place at sea when practicable. I do not think more satisfactory arrangement is obtainable. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1111/21

Re protest. Brazilian attitude (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1039/21)

Mediterranean.

RECCO Ship could not enter Grand Harbour owing to cargo of naptha. Exchange of signals re cargo was not completed in time for her to enter Marsa Scirocco before dark, so she was ordered to enter at daylight 30/1. She did not enter until 1025. (C. in C. Med. 1919/21)

Danube Navigation. Sudden break of ice cleared gorges of iron gates yesterday, but entrance at Donja Milanovac still blocked. Ice breaking along whole of river and Hungarians using aeroplanes to accelerate process by bombing. General navigation expected beginning of April. (A.N.A. Belgrade 1350/21)

Possible S/M warfare. French intelligence report, Bizerta, refers to great activity among German agents, East Coast of Majorca, suggesting preparation for submarine warfare in Mediterranean. Booms placed at most Italian ports in September 1939, have been removed. (S.O.(I) Malta 2036/21).

East Indies.

Berthing Large Ships, Aden. C. in C. E.I's 0727/17. Experience in berthing. EMPRESS OF BRITAIN indicates undesirability of both ships of such size at Aden. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0541/21)

War Diary.

21.3.40.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

TRIBUNE	Engine defects. Escort required for passage to Greenock (R.A.(S) 1111/21)
NORFOLK	Approx. date of completion between end of June and mid July (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1304/21, 1840/21)
DIANA	Asdic gear damaged (DIANA 1110/21)
JUPITER	Density 015 in both boilers, ordered to Scapa, request relief. (JAVELIN 0510/21)
SNABB	Finnish, hit submerged object 59° 27' N. 2° 25' W 2300/6. Damage not known. No leak (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 173/21)
VERBANIA	Position. WATERMAYER proceed and take in tow (A.C.O.S. 1638/21) See 20/3. NORTHERN DUKE standing by 103 Munken Rock 54 at 0350 (V.A.N.P. 600/22) 61° 35' N. 3° 50' W. (Cable intercept.)
DUNLUCE CASTLE	Fire in No. 2 hold at 2040/21. No casualties Ship beached in Ore Bay as precaution (R.A. Scapa 1105/22)

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Following information (graded B2) has been received (I.C.0396/40.)
GNEISENAU at Wilhelmshaven 13/3.
KARLSRUHE, EMDEN at Kiel 13/3.
SCHLESIEN (training battleship) at Pillau 13/3.
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN (do) at Sassnitz 13/3.
Following forecast of movements (graded B3) was also received, but last minute alterations may have occurred (I.C.0396/40.)
SCHARNHORST, NURNBERG, KOLN } Carrying out practices from Brunsbuttel Heligoland and Schillig Roads 13-25 March
LEIPZIG, KONIGSBERG } Duty cruisers Heligoland Bight area 13-20 March.
BLUCHER, PRINZ EUGEN } At Kiel between 19 and 25 March.
ADMIRAL SCHEER Wilhelmshaven area between 13 and 26/3.
(D.D.I.C. 1216/21 to N.A. Hague, Oslo, Copenhagen Stockholm)

Raider. Friendly neutral attache to Berlin tells me following obtained from dependable private sources (a) LUTZOW and tanker NORDMARK after equipping at Gdynia sailed end of Feb. for N.Sea port. They left for commerce raiding first week March.

U-boats. (b) Sailings of U-boats Wilhelmshaven recently, suspended. Big offensive expected shortly. Available U-boats advised ready sail 1/4 or 2/4. (N.A. Copenhagen 1731/21) Asking nationality and grading (D.N.I. 1718/22) American B3 (N.A Copenhagen 0910/23)

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping (Cont.)

Routes. Your 1050/19 not understood. My 2000/18 merely states new route for light draught ships proceeding between Thames or Downs and Western Dutch or Belgian ports (D.E.W.D. 1230/21)

Miscellaneous.

Scapa blockships. Adty. 2026/20 accepting ships of less than 2000 tons for eastern entrance although unsuitable. By next autumn presume permanent blocking will be well advac advanced (R.A. Scapa 1254/21)

W.I.R. No. 1 incorrect re. Great Belt. It has not been navigable throughout its length. Ice conditions unchanged since my 1900/19 (N.A. Copenhagen 1731/21)

WEATHER.

0500.

	Wind.	Visibility.	Weather.
North Sea (except extreme east)	Mod. Westerly.	Good.	Cloudy.
Channel W. Approaches			
Horns Reef (and E. shores of N. Sea.)	South, mod.	Poor.	Rain.

Outlook. Moderate westerly winds and good visibility spreading to all areas today.

War Diary.

21.3.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Jersey Airways Neutral a/c's. Permission granted to transfer to Tangemere in event of Shoreham going unserviceable and for neutrals to Lynne. Qualifications (Air. Min. 1105/21)

Mining.

V.A. Dover's 1735/20. Search for contact mines should be carried out over whole length of route to Wandelaar Lt. buoy. Traffic should be released after search has started 21/3. Magnetic ground mine is not considered likely cause of damage to PHOBOS but area of casualty should be searched with available resources for magnetic mines. An. M.D. ship will not be available for some time (D.M.S. 0027/21 to C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover).
But V.A. Dover 1806/21 says Adty. representative considered damage probably caused by magnetic mine.

Operation PA4 Completed.

Minesweeping Reports. One mine cut in N. Goodwin area. Heavy traffic is still held up in Downs. The area is to be cleared 22/3 by 5th M/S. F. Trawler AGNES NUTTEN caught British mine in trawl 58°26' N 1° 9' W. 21/3. She was fishing in for bidden area. (C. in C. Rosyth 1821/22).

Shipping.

Convoys.

HN 20 H N 20 has split. Two destroyers are escorting 7 ships down west coast, and 4 destroyers are escorting the remaining 33 ships to Methil; this section was off Kinnairds Head 0730.

ON 21 33 ships escorted by 4 destroyers, a submarine and 2 cruiser (one AA) is off Shetlands.

FS 27,29. Postponed 24 hours (C. in C. Rosyth 1308/21)

Convoy forecast. March 26 to 31 inclusive. (C. in C. Rosyth. 1932/21, 1502/28)

Positions. (D.C. 1840/21)

HG 24 Route (D.T.D. 1701/21)

OA 114 Details (N.C.S.O. Thames 1334/21)

HGF 23 Orders to escort (C. in C. W.A. 1047/21)

Routes. Adty. 1233/19. Hold heavy draft ships until further orders. (D.T.D. 1441/21)

War Diary. 21.3.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

ALTMARK — Sailed from Sandefjord 0300/21, German tug in attendance (N.A. Oslo 1700/26)

Air.

Enemy air activity. — Some fishing trawlers gunned in North Sea (D.C.2011/22) One a/c course 090° Key position 090 Peterhead 4 miles (ESCAPADE 1105/21)

TUSCAN STAR — reported 0926 bombed by a/c Beachy Head. 040° 18 miles. Cancelled 0928. O.K. now (C. in C. Portsmouth 1030/21)

RECORDO Tr. 1500 — Attacked off Norfolk coast. Unexploded 200 lb. bomb on board machine gun damage. Master wounded (D.C.N.S. 201)

SALACON Tr. 1500 — Attacked off Norfolk coast. Missed by bombs, machine gun damage, Master wounded. (D.C.N.S. 201)

KIEL, LINA FISSER, BUENOS AIRES (Swedish) — Bombed by British planes, first 2 in N. Sea, last one in Heligoland Bight (Reuter, Berlin).

Balloon barrage. — Inflate all balloons in barrages covering Naval ports on East and South coasts. (Air Min. 1841/21) Air Min. are issuing instructions for increased balloon barrages to be flown at E. and S. coast naval ports(D. of L.D. 1928/21)

Bombing restrictions. — For daylight 24/3, 25/3 (R.A.(S) 1012/21, D.C. 1449/21.)

Scapa Raid. — Your 1615/20. Routine is to extinguish all lights immediately air raid warning is given. On this occasion lights had been asked for at 2000. Air raid started in daylight before 2000 and order to extinguish lights was therefore not passed with warning. When about 2010 it was noticed lights were on orders to extinguish were at once given. Not considered lights aided bombers which arrived before they were exposed but steps will be taken for future. (A.C.O.S. 1048/21 to Adty.)

Air.

Recognition of A/C's. — Air Ministry's proposals. Over N. Sea E. of 4° W. and N. of lat. of N. Foreland Lighters may open fire at sight by night of any a/c showing navigation lights. Ships anywhere at sea may fire by night at any a/c within range, whether burning navigation lights or not. Do French wish area to be extended? This cancels A.748 10/3, A.747/10/3. (Air Min. 2150/21)
I agree and concur with use of inter-service system of reporting hostile a/c's. Suggest ships use P/1 for sighting reports when speed factor is primary consideration e.g. when visibility is small. (C. in C. Rosyth 2202/21)

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Note. At 1227/21 Adty. passed to all concerned a summary of positions of German merchant ships on Scandinavian coast. Told to decode it. (D.D.I.C. 1657/21)

Operation D U

(Sweep into Skagerrak by 2nd C.S. and 8 destroyers which sailed from Scapa 2330/20) (F.O.C.O.S. 2330/20) C. in C. H.F. in RODNEY, with WARSPITE VALIANT, RENOWN, REPULSE and 15 destroyers is N.E. of Shetlands (0730) in support. Two of the destroyers operated during the day off Norwegian coast in Lat. 62°

Force B. GALATEA, AURORA, SOMALI, SIKH, FOXHOUND FIREDRAKE.

Force C. ARETHUSA, PENELOPE, MATABELE, MASHONA, FAME, FORESIGHT.

Battle flight will r.v. with you 0730/22. Leader will ask for r.v. for further battle flight at 1600 (C. in C. Rosyth 1756/21 to C.S.2) Battle flight delayed by weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 0652/22)

S/M's on patrol.

HEDDERNHEIM sunk, URSULA sunk, HEDDERNHEIM about 2300/21 8 miles E. of Skaw. URSULA damaged by ice but can dive. She has been ordered to keep E. of line Kristiansand Hantsholm until 0600/23, if this not practicable she is to say so before passing to W. of it. (R.A.(S) 0519/22, D.C.2317/21, URSULA 0100/22, R.A.(S) 0451/22.
HEDDERNHEIM intercepted 8 miles E. of Skaw steering west. Tried to escape, gave nationaltiy Esthonian and employed delaying tactics which were hastened by shot over funnel. After whole crew safe in boats in flat calm water ship was torpedoed and sank in 5 minutes. Crew then picked up by unknown ship which approached from south burning searchlights. German boat's crew reported Captain had shot himself. Chief Engineer Sinn taken prisoner and stated HEDDERNHEIM carrying 7000 tons ore. (V.A.(S) 1709/25)

JOHANN BLUMENTHAL

Adty. 1227/21. At 0001 23/3 SEAL is to proceed towards Arendal to intercept JOHANN BLUMENTHAL No bombing restrictions arranged-if ship not intercepted by 2200/23 SEAL is to proceed as desired by you (R.A.(S)2234/21 to Capt (S) 2)

CHARLOTTE CORD

definitely sailing Rotterdam tonight 21/3 proceed down close to Dutch territorial waters and endeavour to intercept and capture (Capt. (S) 3 to SUNFISH 2043/21).

21.3.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Home Fleet. See Operation D U.

NORFOLK escorted by 4 destroyers arrived in Clyde 2300/20. She made good 10 knots on passage and the tug in attendance was not required.

Northern Patrol.

Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 7 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 "

ARK ROYAL — V.A.A intends sailing her escorted by only ISIS, IMOGEN. HAVOCK not required (C. in C. Portsmouth 1317/21) HAVOCK was delayed V.A.A. 0942/21)

IVANHOE, THIRLMERE, 10th A/S, SF. — To operate in Moray Firth see 1007/19. There is a U-boat in the Moray Firth area. (A.C.O.S.1020/21) Cancelled (A.C.O.S. 1101/2)

S/M's. — Positions 0700/22 and movements (R.A.(S) 1647/21, D.C. 1757/21, 2136/21.

U-boat hunting in Moray Firth — Arrangements for 4 destroyers to act under orders of F.O.C.O.S. in view of renewed U-boat activity in Moray Firth (D.O.D.(H) 1715/21, F.O.C.O.S. 1128/21).

A/S S.F. West of Scillies. — WOLVERINE, VANSITTART, VIMY, VENETIA to leave Plymouth 23/3 and act as A/S S.F. in area W. of Scillies before meeting Convoy HX 26 at 0745/24 (C. in C. W.A. 1325/21)

French S/M's. — 16th Division (ORPHEE, AMAZONE, ANTIOPE, SYBILLE with depot ship JULES VERNE arrive Harwich p.m. 22/3 or a.m. 23/3.
13th Division (DORIS, THETIS, CIRCE, CALYPSO) arrive Portsmouth beginning of April. Numbers printed in brick red on conning towers. These S/M's will be under command of V.A.(S) (D.O.D.(H) 2252/21).

War Diary

22. 3. 1940.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

S/ms. Reported — Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C. 1242/22)

1150 By aircraft 59° 12' N., 9° 36' W. (about 40 miles N.N.E. Cape Wrath) (A/c 269 Sqn. 1150/22)

1630 By aircraft 59° 20' N., 3° 54' W. (about 33 miles N.W. Stromness) (A/c 269 Sqn. 1630/22)

1845 Aircraft dropped 2 bombs on a U-boat 20 miles N.W. Orkneys. Both bombs appeared to hit the submarine but failed to explode. The s/m then dived. (I.C. 0398/40) gives time 1820, also A/S.W.D. 201). ELECTRA and ENCOUNTER sent to search.

0342 No. 1 time Loop (16 mines) in the Switha entrance to Scapa was fired during night. Diving is being carried out to see whether a U-boat has been destroyed. (F.O.C.O.S. 1303/22)

1150 By aircraft (M.269) 59° 12' N., 4° 36' W. (319° Sule Skerry 9 miles). U-boat had submerged before the attack. No known result. (A/c 269 Sqn., 1845/22, Donibristle 2042/22, 2230/22).

2158 By SHEFFIELD, 2 attacks in 61° 05' N., 03° 35' E. at 2158, and 60° 19' N., 0° 17' W. on 23/3. (SHEFFIELD 1022/23). Results unknown. (A/S.W.D. 201).

War Diary. 22.3.40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Mediterranean.

LARISSA	Cleared for Poti 20/3 states she was unable to go to Batum owing to labour difficulties at that port. (S.O.(I) Malta 1315/22).

U-BOAT ...

War Diary. 22.3.40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

CHARLOTTE CORDS. Left Rotterdam 2359/21. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 0867/22).

LAUENBURG Tr. Passed going south in company with another trawler, both fully laden. (Tromso 1650/22).

HANS LEONHARDT. Arrived from the South (Bermardes, Haugesund 1940/22).

LEDA Waiting to load (do.).

OLDENBURG Sailed south laden with ore (do.)

PASAJES Sailed south laden with fish (do.)

PLANET Reported 22/3 sailing northwards in Norwegian territorial waters N.W. of Bergen.(N.I.D.8) 61°0'N.4°46'E. at 1100/22 reported by A/c (D.N.I. 1803/22).

AKKA. } ELSTER. } Arrived Rotterdam. Both appear to be going to sail again same night. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1900/22).

? Recently passed over 10 miles W. of Lyngvig steering for Norman Dyb. (Consul Esbjerg 1600/22).

EUROPA All ships Rosyth East to decode C. in C. Rosyth's 1836/22 re EUROPA (D.C. 1949/22).

BUTT Herring trawler. Alleged to have been stopped by British destroyer within Norwegian territorial waters a.m. 22/3. Destroyer fired warning shot which fell on Norwegian territory. (Transocean W/T, 0001 G.M.T. 27/3.) Norwegian Admiral reported that at 0929/22 Obrestad Coastguard Station observed 9 British destroyers in S.W. 2 nautical miles from land. At 0940 1 fired warning shot against BUTT going southwards, projectile fell 60 metres west of main road by Lerbekke farms, approx.800 metres from the beach, did not explode but ricochet made cratres 2 metres long and 30 to 40 cm. deep. Norwegian Legation, London, instructed to protest. (Cable intercept from Norwegian Foreign Minister 25/3).

Mediterranean.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Halifax Assembly Port. A.N.A. Stockholm's 1638/19. Ships cannot be inspected at Halifax or Kingston. Assembly port for convoys for ships from Panama Canal for U.K. is Halifax. (D.T.D. 1103/22).

QUEEN MARY. MAURETANIA. Leakage of information re. ultimate destination. Investigate and report whether Cunard Office, N. York is to blame. (D.N.I. 2009/22 to N.C.S.O. New York). Please investigate (C. in C. A.W.I. 1130/22 to N.S.HQ. Ottawa). Details as to leakage re fuelling arrangements should be reported (D.N.I. 2010/22 to S.N.O. Trinidad, S.O.(I) Jamaica, C. in C. A.W.I. re 2225/21) MAURETANIA expected time of arrival Colon, 1900 R/25/3 (C. in C. A.W.I. 1640/22). Arrived and left Bermuda 22/3. (Capt. I/C. Bermuda, 1800/22).

French Ships. Arrivals and departures (Canadian S.O.(I) Halifax 1450/22).

HX Convoys. Revised cycle of sailings see Home Commands.

Mediterranean.

S/m Warfare, Majorca. Can you confirm or amplify S.O.(I) Malta's 2036/21 (preparation for submarine warfare off E. Coast of Majorca. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1304/22).
French Intelligence, Bizerta, reports great activity among German agents East Coast of Majorca suggesting preparations for submarine warfare in Mediterranean. Booms placed at most Italian ports in September, 1939, have been removed. Have you any confirmation? (D.N.I. to N.A. Madrid, 1317/22).

GERMAN ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Convoys.	Positions. (D.C. 0428/22).
CONTE DI SAVOIA	Has she arrived Gibraltar? (D.C. to F.O.C.N.A. 0833/22).
S/m warfare off Majorca.	Your 1304/22 (re preparations). No confirmation. No information re from Palma. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1902/22 to D.N.I.).
OA, OB Convoys.	Altered cycle. (D.T.D. 1338/22).

South Atlantic.

Unknown Ship.	Apparently patrolling without lights sighted by French S.S. FLORIDA 1730/20 25 miles E. of 27°19' S. 48°23' W. Description (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1319/22). Description amended. (A.N.A. Rio 1049/25).
Whale Factory Ships and SALUTA.	Re communicating with them. Ordered to proceed direct from South Georgia to Freetown without calling at Falklands. (D.T.D. 2121/22 to C. in C. S.A., R.A. S.A.D.)
GRAF SPEE	Report that on 16/12/39 crew of GRAF SPEE refused to proceed to sea and appeared mutinous. Asking for report. (D.N.I. 1828/22 to N.A. Buenos Aires).

America ...

War Diary. 22.3.40.
Friday.

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

BARHAM	Undocked p.m. 21/3. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1415/22).
EXPRESS. MANX ADMIRAL Tr.	In collision 2100. Damage not serious, but EXPRESS has returned to port, for repairs. (Capt. D. 20 2132/22).
H.M.T. JASPER Tr. KINELLAR	In collision 1231/22 in Granton harbour. No serious damage to either. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1725/22).
BATAVIER IV	Obstruction with paravane bearing Fairy Bank buoy 243 true distance about 3 miles. (N. Foreland Radio, recd. 1155/22).

FOREIGN ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

LUTZOW — Asking source of his 1542/8 stating LUTZOW refitting at Danzig 21/2 together with sister ship of ALTMARK class named NORDMARK fitting out and embarking 11 inch ammunition. B.O. (D.N.I. 1252 to A.N.A. Stockholm). Reply. Swedish naval reserve officer name(?) unknown there recently returned from Danzig. through Cdre. Staff College (A.N.A. Stockholm 1140/23).

Internal Situation. — Wife of highly placed German officer states internal situation in army is becoming critical. Active pre-revolutionary mood which must explode before very long; and army and navy realise explosion inevitable unless there has been a very considerable success and definite improvement in conditions by August. Military chiefs said to be urging Hitler towards an (? impetuous, inadvisable and quite unscrupulous) offensive. This is immediately expected. (Mr. Osborne (the Vatican) No.29 D.I.P.P. 22/3).

N.I.D. Note: All other reports mention distress in Germany but all stress that the people are resolved to carry on until the business is finished.

I am again assured Blitzkrieg may start at any moment and Mussolini presumably satisfied it could not fail; if Hitler should have initial success most likely Mussolini will attack in Mediterranean. If we should have considerable success he will probably become our best friend. (Mr. Osborne (the Vatican) No.28 D.I.P.P. 22/3).

CASUALTIES ...

War Diary. 22.3.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous.

Suspect Skoot. Seen by S/T LEONARA 1320/22 near E.Dudgeon acting suspiciously. Dutch flag. (F.O. Humber 1945/22).

Suspicious Ship. JERNLAND, Norwegian. I am refusing convoy, probable his application is for purpose of spying. (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1145/22).

Danish Fishing Fleet. W/T sets will be sealed before sailing. (Consul Esjberg 1625/22).

Scapa Defence. My 1303. Switha Gatrand minefields now in operation. (F.O.C.O.S. 1917/22).

Transfer of V.A.(S) Hq. Stage 3 0800/30. (V.A.(S) 1751/22).

WEATHER.

0500	Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea - Shetland.	Local E.gale.	5 miles
North Sea	Light S.	5-10 miles.
Horns Reef Channel E.	S.W. 3.	5-10 miles, local mist.
Channel W. W.Approaches.	South 4.	15-20 miles, showers.

Outlook - No immediate change.

Enemy ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

HN 21 — 31 ships for E. Coast, 9 for W. Coast (D.T.D. 1323/22). Sailed (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1047/22).

HN 20 — Arrived Methil 0630 (N.C.S.O. Methil 0840/22). 42 ships (8 British, 34 neutral).

ON 21 — Off Bergen escorted by 3 destroyers, 1 submarine and 2 cruisers. JUNO left Scapa at 1800/21 to reinforce escort and replace JUPITER, returning to Scapa with condenser trouble. (D.C.N.S. 200).

ON 22 — Arrives Point E. 1630/26/3. (D.T.D. 0930/22).

HN 22 — Leaves Point E. 1900/26/3. (D.T.D. 0930/22). Additions (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 1313/22).

H.M.S. BREDA. — My 0930/22. H.M.S. BREDA may be identified by Master as yacht commissioned as man-of-war. Captain of Convoy leader carried out duties of Commodore. (D.T.D. 1455/22).

HG 24 — Rendezvous. (F.O.C.N.A. 1142/22).

Protection off Tyne. — I have no vessel for patrolling round convoys anchored off entrance waiting to enter, their times of leaving and entering being governed by tide and conditions in river, not by time of arrival or departure of convoys. Grave risk of S/m. action. Number of ships often 30 waiting for 3 or 4 hours. Request at least 2 patrol vessels for this duty. (N.O.I.C. Newcastle on Tyne 2211/22 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Ocean HN 21 — D.C. 1834/22.
Sailed for rendezvous p.m. 21/3 (N.C.S.O.Bergen 1047/22, D.T.D. 1318/22) (C. in C. Rosyth 1904/22).
Believed reported to German Consul 0900/22 by German fishing vessel NORDLAND (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1731/22). Route if weather bad (C. in C. Rosyth 1301/22) (D.T.D. 2001/22).

Altered Cycle HX Convoys. — HX 30 to arrive rendezvous in W.A. 6/4 instead of 7/4. Subsequent HX Convoys to sail to arrive at 4 day intervals from this date. (D.T.D.1341/22).

Altered Cycle OA, OB Convoys. — D.T.D. 1338/22.

HX 31 — Rendezvous (Capt. D'kyd. Halifax 1001/22).

HGF 25 — Route (D.T.D. 1731/22).

W/T Silence. — British merchant ships should not break W/T silence to answer call by neutral W/T station(D.S.D.1543/22)

Air warnings to shipping. — See Air.

Miscellaneous. ...

War Diary.

22.3.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Mine Sweeping Reports.

One type Y swept in 51°20.2'N. 1°43.9'E. (V.A. Dover 2112/22). This is near PHOBOS, mined 20/3.

Skid exploded mine St. Anthony 005° 2.64 miles (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1701/22).

Two moored mines were swept at South end of Fairy Bank, between the Downs and Holland. (D.C.N.S. 201).

Daily Sweep by French.

By destroyer will be carried out between Wandelaar and position 090° W. Hinder 1.5 miles. Details (V.A. Dover 1852/22).

Parachute Mines.

Suspected within radius ¾ mile of 51°6"N. 1°28'6"E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1611/22).

H.M.T. WILLIAM WESNEY engaged 2 Heinkels 0715/22 near rough buoy off Harwich, saw 2 parachutes drop 1 to 1½ miles N.W. of rough buoy. Are being investigated with skids. (C. in C. Nore 1600/22) 51°55.5'N. 1°30'E.

The normal channel was forbidden and a temporary one substituted.

Floating Mines.

Reported by Oslo Radio sighted 58°32'N. 5°5' E. at 1315/22 and 56°59'N. 6°49'E. at 1510/22 (D.C. 2125/22).

Dummy mines.

To be laid (practice lay by NARWHAL) about 10 miles to E. of W. limit of E. Coast barrier between 55°55' N. and 56°10' N. (D.O.D.(H) 1315/22 etc. V.A.(S) 1616/20.)

Shipping. ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Air (Cont.)

British Air Activity. Normal patrols were flown in North and North-West.

In the North Sea they were prevented by weather.

German A/C shot down by trawler. Evening Standard report, 21/3, of 4 German airmen rescued 110 miles of Ymuiden by Dutch trawler, landed there 21/3, said plane shot down by British trawler. Request further details as to British trawler responsible, time and position of action. (D.N.I. 1947/22, to N.A. Hague).

Air Warning to Shipping. Proposals. Issue of Warnings. A. Adty. to issue to Area B as well as Area A. B. English Channel to be divided into E. and W areas at 3° W.
In absence of warning from Adty., C. in C. Portsmouth to warn in E. portion, C. in C. W.A. W. portion.
Other areas in W. Approaches Command to be designanted Bristol Channel and Irish Sea.
Ships at sea to report all unidentified and enemy a/cs. at once to Adty. and S.O. of Command.

Method of Signalling Warnings. Rapidity essential. Procedure self-evident code.

A. Signification.

	Code Word.
(1) Enemy a/c may be approaching or there is possibility of attack (in area).	APPO
(2) Unidentified a/c sighted(in ... area or in position).	APUN
(3) Enemy a/c(in ... area or in position).	APEN

B. Signification of area.

(1) Eastern Channel (E. of 3° W.)	WITE
(2) Western Channel and Approaches (W. of 3° W)	PLYM
(3) Bristol Channel	BRIT
(4) Irish Sea	IRIS

(C. in C. W.A. 1939/22).

Recognition of a/cs. Re. Adty. 2116/8 and 1642/11. Escort of FS 24 report friendly a/c approached close to convoy with navigation lights burning night 20/21 March. (C. in C. Nore 1845/22).

Adty. 2056/21. Concur Inter-Service system should be normal method. Further proposals (C. in C. Nore 1739/22). Adty. 2256/21. Concur. (C. in C. H.F. 0936/22).

Adty. 1310/2 do instructions in Adty.1406/30/11/39 still apply. (C. in C. H.F. 0843/22).

Mining ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Air (Cont.)

British Air Activity. Normal patrols were flown in North and North-West.

In the North Sea they were prevented by weather.

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Adty. 2056/21. Concur Inter-Service system should be normal method. Further proposals (C. in C. Nore 1739/22). Adty. 2256/21. Concur. (C. in C. H.F. 0938/22).

Adty. 1310/2 do instructions in Adty.1406/30/11/39 still apply? (C. in C. H.F. 0843/22).

Mining ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Cont)

S/ms. on Patrol.

My 2043/21 to SUNFISH. Two other German merchant ships reported sailing from Brokum to Rotterdam to-night. Proceed close to Dutch territorial waters and endeavour to capture. SNAPPER is to keep N. and SUNFISH S. of Lat. 053° (Capt.(S)3 0035/22 to SNAPPER, SUNFISH).

Orders to URSULA. (Capt.(S)6 1121/22 re her 0100/22. see 21/3).

SEAL to proceed to intercept JOHANN BLUMENTHAL (Capt.(S)2 1041/22).

Orders for THISTLE, TRIAD, TRUANT (Capt.(S)2 1030/22).

Orders for SUNFISH, SNAPPER (Capt.(S)3 0901/22).

Air.

Enemy Air Activity.

One A/c plotted off Norfolk coast 0145. Sighting reports F.O. I.C. Glasgow, 1721/22, D.N.I. 1803/22).

Probably trying to locate convoys. (I.C. 0397/40).

See also Mining.

FRITZS

Finnish, 1475 tons, attacked and bombed by 2 A/cs. in North Sea late afternoon, engine disabled and steering gear wrecked. Two trawlers put out from Peterhead, tried to tow, but failed. Tug sent from Aberdeen. (Daily Mail). Towed into port night 23/24 with broken rudder post. (D.T.D. 0204/24 to B.C. Bergen 2226/23). In ON 20. (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1113/23).

WILLIAM WESNEY 0715

H.M. Trawler. Engaged 2 Heinkels near rough buoy off Harwich. 6 rounds. (C. in C. Nore 1600/22). See also Mining) (parachute mines).

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Home Fleet. Engaged on Operation DU.

Northern Patrol.

Orkneys to Faroes	Trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland	2 Cruisers, 6 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait	1 Cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

ARK ROYAL Sailed for Mediterranean.

S/ms. Positions 0600 and movements. (D.C.2012/22) (D.C. 0045/23, R.A.(S) 1701/22, 2121/22, Capt.(S)3 1821/22, R.A.(S) 1659/22).

French S/ms. 3 French S/ms. and a depot ship have arrived at Harwich.

Operations.

Operation DU. At 0730 C. in C. in RODNEY, with WARSPITE, VALIANT, RENOWN, REPULSE and 13 destroyers were 120 miles W. of Sogne Fjord, 62° N. 5° E.

Battle Flight due to rendezvous with C.S. 2 0730/20 delayed by weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1940/22, 0650/23).

S/ms. on Patrol. Passing them information re OLDENBURG, PASAJES, Trawlers and LAUENBURG (See German Merchant Ships) (D.C. 0003/23).

Destroyers off Norway. Alleged infringement of neutrality in firing on German herring trawler BUTT. (See German Merchant Ships).

S/ms. ...

War Diary. 22.3.40.
Friday.

"A" Message Home and Abroad 28 A.

Raider Reported. Reports that pocket battleship accompanied by tanker of ALTMARK class left Germany first week in March for commerce raiding. Possibility of raider being abroad cannot be ignored as only one pocket battleship can with any certainty be located in German waters. (D.C.N.S. 1550/22).

My 1550/22. Reports not graded higher than B.3. In view of confusion caused by term 10,000 ton ship and change of name, ship referred to may be a pocket battleship or a 10,000 ton cruiser. (D.D.I.C. 1333/24).

HOME ...

War Diary

23. 3. 40.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

False alarm 1100 — French ship reported gunned by submarine 32:42 N. 11:20 W., (Gib. Radio (intercepts) 1344/23, 1405/23, 1417/23, 1432/23, 1530/23, 1421/23, 1532/23, C. in C. S.A. 2145/23).
Note. The submarine was French.

Submarines Reported

Estimated positions (D.D.I.C. 1112/23).

0215 — By SHEFFIELD. Contact WPDN 5540 (SHEFFIELD 1022/23).

1425 — By SHEFFIELD. Contact 335° WPZS 21 (SHEFFIELD 1435/23, 1519/23).

1200 — By NORTHERN REWARD 19° Cape Wrath 98 miles. Wreckage and empty raft also sighted (NORTHERN REWARD 1200/23). 60:15 N., 4° W. Aircraft sent to patrol - see Attacks 1705. (A/S.W.D. 201).

Submarines Attacked

1705 — By aircraft WPOO 1638 (Flying Boat K 5258, 1705/23).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

SIEMENS	Left 23/3 loaded with ore (Gibbs, Narvik 1236/23).
RABE	Arrived 23/3 (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 1704/23).
AKKA, RABE	Probably sailing Rotterdam between 2100/23 and 2300/23 (D.C. 2105/23 to V.A.(S), SEAWOLF, N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 1704/23).
KONIGSBERG-PREUSSEN, MASUREN	Following torpedoing of HEDDERNHEIM by URSULA 21/3 both ships received on 22/3 identical orders from their agent in Copenhagen to return at once to Northern part of Sound. Both ships are probably bound for Gottenburg (O.I.C.).
ERIKA HENDRIK FISSER	Sailed from Narvik 23/3 with ore. (D.D.I.C. 1830/23).
HANS LEONHARDT	Sailed from Haugesund 23/3 believed going North (D.C. 2319/23).
NORDWEST	Arrived (Gottenburg 1300/23).
MARS	Sailed in ballast (Gottenburg 1300/23).
BORBECK	Passed southward 1620 loaded followed by unknown German ship. Description (D.C. 2319/23).
EDMUND HUGO STINNES 4	Intercepted by TRUANT, sunk (see Operations) S.O.S. intercept 2231 GMT (Humber Radio 2355/23) See Operations.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China.

Conduct of Japanese Aircraft continued

LIVERPOOL on return to harbour confirmed that no gun was fired. Point out extreme unlikelihood of such an allegation and that no incident is likely to occur unless Japanese provoke it by actions of their aircraft. (C. in C., China, to N.A. Tokyo, 0624Z/23).

Dispositions

To intercept German ships reported sailing from Dutch East Indies ports on 29/3:-

DANAE left Singapore 21/3, show off Batavia, patrol off Sourabaya, refuelling from oiler. PEARLEAF on patrol 28/3 vide my 0425/21.

DURBAN arrives Singapore 24/3, sails to patrol off Padang 25/3, on patrol from 28/3 onwards.

RAINBOW sails for Sunda Strait patrol 25/3.

PERSEUS sails to reinforce RAINBOW 27/3.

TENEDOS and STRONGHOLD sail 26/3 for patrol off Sabang based at Penang. French C. in C. informed. (R.A., Malaya, 0425Z/23).

Your 0241/23. Approved to use FALMOUTH for interception of German ships leaving Dutch East Indies ports until arrival of CERES and COLOMBO, vice C. in C. East Indies 0456/23. (C. in C. China, 1025/23 to R.A., Malaya).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

British ships in Black Sea — Asking that they may be warned not to reply to W/T messages asking for their positions. Record of such messages to be kept and reported to British consul at next port of call (C. in C. Med. 1310/23 to Admiralty).

America & West Indies

French Submarines — French wish them to join an OA convoy when they sail from Brest for Halifax. (D.O.D.(H) 1530/23).

QUEEN MARY — Admiralty 2010/22. Information QUEEN MARY fuelling at Trinidad known of here 21/3. Date of arrival and destination not known. Intelligence officer investigating source. (S.N.O., Trinidad, 1112/23).

Admiralty 2009/22. Satisfied no leakage occurred from Cunard White Star or elsewhere. Reports only intelligent conjectures by American Press. Submit even now no mention of correct immediate destination of either ship has occurred. (N.C.S.O., New York, 1523/23). Reply see 28/3.

Australia & New Zealand

Darwin-Timor Patrol. MANOORA. — Australian C'wealth N.B. 0231Z/23 to C. in C. China.

China

Conduct of Japanese Aircraft — Your 1901/13. As result of letter addressed to S.N.O., Shanghai for my predecessor by Admiral Hasegamah on 6/10/1937 full precautions have since then been in force to avoid danger of misunderstanding by aircraft of both sides flying close to Japanese and British ships engaged on war operations. To avoidcomplications I have hitherto refrained from protesting at Japanese aircraft shadowing and flying close to our patrols since ASAMA MARU, but must now suggest that Japanese observe their part of long-standing agreement.

(cont'd.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

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(cont'd.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French positions 1200/23 (D.C. 0023/23).

Convoy positions 2000/23 (C. in C. W.A. 1322/23).

Suspicious tanker 1200/22, 5 miles west of Moledo, R.Minho, until 1500 when she steered west (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 2247/23).

South Atlantic

Oiler My 1153/8/2. Owing to over-riding commercial considerations regret impossible to provide you with a special fast tanker. (D.O.D.(F) 1810/23 to C. in C. S.A.

SEVILLA With valuable whale oil cargo. Proceeding to Gib. Asking for escort in view of report of submarine 32:42 N. 11:20 W. (C. in C. S.A. 2145/23) Admiral Afrique asked to provide escort (C. in C. S.A. 2130/23) (see 24/3).

Raider Reported by Marine AOF that 10,000 ton cruiser sailed from Germany with ALTMARK class tanker beginning of March. Is this in addition to possible pocket battleship mentioned in Admiralty 1550/22 (C. in C. S.A. 1831/23). Refers to same vessel (D.D.I.C. 1055/24).

Whale Factory Ships and SALUTA Your telegram 22/3 received. Sailings of SOURABAYA, SALVESTRIA, NEW SEVILLA for Freetown. SVENDFOYN ready for sea. Shall she be detained pending further orders? W/T apparatus SALUTA listens for Portishead at 19 and 20 hours GMT (Salvesen, South Georgia, 23/3, received 1644/24/3).

Belligerent rights Your 1940/14/2. No intention of restricting. Although desirable to avoid unduly offending susceptibilities of American states it is essential to lose no opportunity of capturing ships. Protests will be made irrespective of position where we intercept. Preferable to treat each case according to circumstances of moment rather than impose any general restrictions on our actions. (Hd. of M. 1336/23 to R.A.S.A.D.).

War Diary

23. 3. 40.
Saturday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

TAMWORTH	Steering gear damaged by collision. Tug CAROLINE MOLLER sent from Harwich (C. in C., Nore, 1823/23, 1825/23) 027° Kentish Knock Lt. V. 8 miles.
BLM 26	French. Ashore 4 cables N.E. of Longsand Buoy. Tug SECURITY standing by. Tug MURIA from Harwich and another tug from Gravesend proceeding to relieve SECURITY (C. in C. Nore, 1643/23) Anchored safely afloat. Stop sending men and boats (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0331/26)
YOSYUMARU	Stranded S.W. coast Hokkaido (cable intercept)
H 58	Belgian fishing steamer, 14 days overdue (Transocean Radio 0500/23).
SANDE	Swedish 1326 tons. Sank in Oslo Fjord night 23/24 after collision with NUOLJA (Transocean Radio, 1800/23).
LOCH ASSATER, <u>mined, sunk</u>.	Look-out trawler LOCH ASSATER, in hauling her trawl, detonated two mines in position (by her reckoning) 61 miles N.E. ½ North (magnetic) from Kinnaird Head at 1430/23. In attempting to clear third mine in her trawl this exploded and sank the vessel, which had certainly trawled across the British deep minefield. All crew picked up 0530/24 by S/T STRATHTUMMEL. Skipper and two others seriously injured. Instructions not to use nets have been reissued and emphasized. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1320/24, 1649/24, 1710/24). These vessels haveorders to pretend to be fishing, but not to use any form of net in prohibited areas (M/S Summary No. 23). 58:25 N. 1:15 W. approx.

War Diary

23. 3. 40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	S.E. fresh in N. S.W. moderate in S.	Moderate Fog patches	Similar
Channel	S.W. moderate	Moderate	Wind freshening
W. Approaches	S.W. moderate	Moderate	Wind freshening
Horns Reef	S.E. moderate	Poor	Similar

Enemy Intelligence

German Contraband Control

BALDER (Norwegian) Drammen to Bergen, had to leave Norwegian territorial waters in a storm. Seized and released. (Lloyds).

OSMUSSAR (Estonian) Taken to Hamburg 20/11/39. Released 17/3/40. (do).

ROMEO (Estonian) seized and released . (do).

GNEISENAU — Reported to have arrived at Hamburg 1200/14. C.2 (D.D.I.C. 1500/23).

Kiel Canal — reopened. No movement of merchant shipping by night. Elbe open below Brunsbüttel. (Consul Esbjerg 1945/23).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys (continued)

SL 23 — Arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1401/23).

FN 27 — R. of P. from LONDONDERRY (M.O. 6801/40).

Awaiting Convoy — Total of 49 ships awaiting convoy. (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1307/23).

BERGENSFJORD) DROTTNINGHOLM) — Weather permitting mails to be removed at sea, except diplomatic mails. Ships are not to be diverted to Kirkwall. (V.A.N.P., 1534/23).

Heavy Draught Ships — Your 2001 /18, 1441/21. Are these messages still in force? Ships are arriving here by SC 2 Form 125 (N.C.S.O. Antwerp, 1120/23). Yes. Ships were sailed in error. (D.T.D. 1832/23). SC 2 Form 125 is not yet in force. Heavy draft ships should continue to be held in accordance with my 1441/21. (D.T.D. 1851/23 to B.C. Amsterdam, Rotterdam).

Miscellaneous

WOLFE's Report — WOLFE's 1710/10. Extremely improbable ship or convoy were sighted. Circumstances of 10/3 were reported on subsequent occasion in similar weather. Ships turned out to be ice. (V.A.N.P. 1020/23).

C. in C. H.F. 1507/23 — See 27/3.

French Policy — M. Reynaud states that in general he is in favour of getting on with the war at the expense of treating the neutrals with less tenderness than we had hitherto shown. (Sir. R. Campbell (Paris) No. 235 SAVING 23/3). We must expect to be pressed for stronger and more rapid action in any and every field. (Sir R. Campbell (Paris) No. 236 SAVING 23/3)

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

Suspected minelaying raids by aircraft during night 22/23 off the Tay, the Farne Is., and Flamborough Head.

Our aircraft at 6000 was sighted over Scapa 1030 and R.D.F. indicated some activity off Kirkwall at 1425.

Mining

Minesweeping reports

Further delay with M. sweep (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2255/23).

Fog prevented clearing sweep. 2 mines cut 6 cables N. of centre line in 2:6.5 E. One mine cut 1.2 miles N. of centre line in 2:8.5 E., one mine cut 6 cables south of centre line in 2:8 E. Seven mines swept 51:17.6 N. 1:50.2 E. Explosion occurred under BROCK, type of mine at present unknown, slight damage suspected (V.A. Dover, 1954/23).

Nil (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1431/23).

Magnetic sweep exploded 4 mines near Tongue Light V. (Thames estuary) (D.C.N.S. 202).

Shipping

Convoys

HN 21 — 40 ships, was halfway between Norway and Shetlands at 0730/23, Escort 6 destroyers, 1 submarine, 1 AA cruiser. Cover: SHEFFIELD. 9 ships due Cape Wrath 24/3 (D.T.D., 1852/23).

OA 117 — Escort, route (C. in C. W.A. 0948/23).

OB 117 — Route (C. in C. W.A. 0939/23).

ON 22 — Sailed from Methil 1500 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1904/23).

Ocean — Positions and escorts (D.C. 1916/23).

HG, HGF — Signalling positions. Admiralty 1500/7/2 para. 4. In future 2 positions will be given. If not met at R.V. convoy should pass through first position and then steer for second (D.T.D. 1215/23 to F.O.C.N.A.).

HG 25 — Route (D.T.D., 1800/23).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

EDMUND HUGO STINNES 4, sunk. (continued)

Intercepted off Bovbjerg Light, 306°, 3.6 miles 2200/23, shadowed her until ½ mile outside territorial waters. There ordered to stop, not use wireless. She continued, blank rounds fired. Ship altered course towards land and used wireless and re-entered territorial waters. Two rounds H.E. were fired at her bridge superstructure, both hit. Ship sent out S.O.S. So 8 more rounds of H.E. were fired, 3 minutes later ship, now in territorial waters began to list and settle. Crew abandoned ship which was finished off by torpedo to prevent salvage and since TRUANT expected the arrival of enemy aircraft.

Position 2 miles 290° from Thorsminde, 1 German officer was wounded. German Master taken prisoner on board.

TRUANT ascertained that no person was left on board, before sinking the ship. Wreck lies in 8 fathoms of water in middle of track used by coasting shipping. Need for a small boat for boarding was again felt. When E.H. STINNES was stopped a boarding party fully equipped was ready to board the ship with view to stopping scuttling operations and bring prize into home waters. The German boats refused to come alongside, pulled hard for the beach and each had to be chased in turn. By then it was too late to consider taking ship in prize. (TRUANT 0705/25, Capt. (S)2, 1146/26, TRUANT's Patrol report 12/3/40 to 26/3/40. (Capt. (S)2, No.05998 of 27/3/40). I learn unofficially that vessel took 10 hours to sink. Proposed Danish protest. (N.A. Copenhagen, 1901/25).

Air.

Air Searches Off North Cornish coast at day light for possible U-boat. Orders (C. in C. W.A. 0010/23).

Owing to poor visibility only the Northern patrols were flown.

Balloons Cancel my 1324. 8 extra balloons are now in position at Harwich (C. in C. Nore, 1033/23)

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet — See Operations.

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

Submarines — Positions 0600/24 and movements (R.A.(S) 1901/23, D.C. 2015/23, 0201/24).
Submarines on patrol (Capt. (S)2 0136/24.

Operations

Operation D.U. — 2nd C.S. and destroyers were near Lister Light at 0730, returning to bases.

C. in C. H.F. and heavy ships as 22/3.

The operation produced no result. Only 3 enemy merchant ships were sighted, all inside territorial waters.

Policy towards German Fishing Craft. — C. in C. H.F. 1927/10/2 para (e) AUCKLAND is to be placed at disposal of C. in C. H.F. from 26/3 (D.O.D.(H) 1406/23, 1625/23). Will be available 31/3 (C. in C. Rosyth 1934/23). Cancel my 1406/23 (D.O.D.(H), 1158/27).

Submarines on patrol. — Orders for SWORDFISH, UNITY (R.A.(S) 2214/23). SUNFISH, SNAPPER, Patrol reports (V.A.(G) 1853/23).
Movements of HANS LEONHARDT and BORBECK (D.C., 2319/23 to C. in C. H.F.).
Movements of ERIKA HENDRIK FISSER (D.D.I.C., 1830/23, to C. in C. H.F., etc.).

EDMUND HUGO STINNES 4, sunk — Learn on good authority EDMUND HUGO STINNES 4, with coke for Copenhagen, sunk probably by submarine, last night off Thorsminde (Nissum Fjord), west coast of Jutland. Master reported prisoner (N.C.S.O., Copenhagen, 1555/24). Position of wreck reported to be 56:22:12 N., 08:02:06 E. (N.C.S.O., Copenhagen, 2000/24). Ship, 2129 tons, sent out an S.O.S. at 1155/23. TRUANT operating in this area. (D.C.N.S., 203).

(continued)

War Diary

24. 3. 40.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

1237 — AUCKLAND attacked firm contact in 55:49 N., 01:55 W. No visible result. (AUCKLAND 1425/24). Owing to large extent of target and no change in doppler on all bearings consider it non-submarine. (HASTINGS 1625/24).

1900 — By FAME 58:50 N. 2:15 W. (M. 0660Z/40).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

BECHEVILLE 1144 — British, 4228 tons, made a raider distress signal 20 miles E. of Kirkwall 59° N., 2:27 W. Subsequently ship stated that an explosion took place close to her but no ship was in sight. 6 destroyers proceeded from Scapa to hunt. BECHEVILLE arrived Kirkwall with boiler trouble (DCNS) (Scapa W/T intercept 1144/24) (BECHEVILLE, 1202/24) Reported missed by torpedo (I.C., 0400/40).

General — In week ending Sunday 24/3, inclusive, no British or Allied ship was sunk. Eight neutral ships were sunk - Italian TINA PRIMO, Danish MINSK, CHARKOW, BOTHAL, VIKING, ALGIAR, and CHRISTIANSBORG, Norwegian SVINTA - total 16561 tons. (Admiralty communique, The Times 27/3/40).

LOCH ASSETER — See Casualties and Defects.

Submarines Reported

There are indications of an enemy submarine concentration in the Orkney-Shetland area and between Shetlands and Norway (DCNS 202). Still no reliable evidence that there are any other ocean-going U-boats at sea. The Moray Firth patrol may be resumed at any time (D.D.I.C., 1139/24).

1930 — U-boat on surface reported approx. 57:57 N., 05:47 W. steering N. 15th and 16th A/S Striking Forces endeavour to intercept. (A.C.O.S., 2202/24). 58° N., 5:44W., 153° Butt of Lewis 38', reported by coast watcher. (I.C., 0400/40) (C. in C. Rosyth, 2133/24).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

OS PREUSSEN	Reported beached approx. 6 miles S.W. Histshals Light after striking submerged object. (N.C.S.C. Copenhagen, 1945/24). (R.A.(S) 1634/24) (D.D.I.C. 1537/24) (D.C.N.S. 203) (See also Operations).
AFRIKA	Arrived Narvik. (D.D.I.C. 1914/24) (Narvik 1310/24).
BOCHUMA	Sailed loaded with ore (D.D.I.C. 1914/24) (Narvik 1310/24).
FRITZ SCHOOP	Arrived Leipaja 23/3 with coal for State Dept. (Vice Consul, Liepaja 1845/24)
ELSA HUGO STINNES	Arrived Liepaja 23/3 with coal for State Dept. (Vice Consul, Liepaja 1845/24).
	3 German ships left 23/3 with timber and Russian grain cargo. (Vice Consul, Liepaja, 1845/24).
EDMUND HUGO STINNES 4	Sunk off Thorsminde (Nissum Fjord), 56:22:12 N., 08:02:06 E., probably by submarine, last night. (See operations, 23/3).
JOHANN BLUMENTHAL	My 2315/20. Now expected to have 26/3. (Arendal 1120/24).
	<u>America & West Indies</u>
GEDANIA	Master of Norwegian JASPIS reports intention to take enough fuel oil to reach Germany from another ship at Les Palmes. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1254/29, C. in C. A.W.I., 1831/24)
VANCOUVER	Curacao reports Grosvenor has ordered Shell Oil Co. to supply 1000 tons oil to VANCOUVER immediately. (I.C., 0400/40).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Commodore, West Coast. Appointment of Commodore C.G.B. Coltart, broad pendant in DIOMEDE, amended to "Commodore, West Coast of S. America" as from 18/3/40. (Secret Branch Acquaint 438, 24/3).

China

V. MAYAKOVSKI French Govt. asked to take her into a French port. Call at Hong Kong should be avoided if possible. (D.E.W.D. 1113/24)

Removal of Germans Your 0242/24. Generally Admiralty leave such matters to local discretion, since only those on the spot normally possess information on which to judge whether effort involved in removing persons in question would be justified. In present case unless you have reason to consider this man highly important any but slight diversion of H.M. ships from other duties would not appear warranted (vide my 1747/18 para (c). (Hd. of M., 1332/24 to C. in C., China.)

Removal of Mails As result of removal of mails from Japanese FUSHIMI MARU at Singapore, Japanese Consul General suggests to Tokyo possibility of adopting firmer attitude "from standpoint of international law". He fears possibility of detention of ship if he refuses examination of mails. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0525/24).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Black Sea, W/T Warning.	Admiralty message AX. British ships entering Black Sea warned not to reply to W/T messages asking for their position. Record of such to be kept and details reported to British Consul at next port of call. (D.S.D., 2330/24).

America & West Indies.

REVENGE	To act as escort for convoy HX.30 on 25/3, subsequently returning Halifax (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1053/24).
MAURETANIA	Your 1640/22, (MAURETANIA expected time of arrival Colon). Not known whether the ship has been measured for Canal certificate. To be carried out immediately on arrival. To avoid delay propose ship be docked and fuelled at Cristobal while awaiting early daylight transit Tuesday. Police guard at dock provisionally arranged. (N.C.S.O., Colon, 1102/24). N.C.S.O.'s 1102/24 passed to D. of S.T., Admiralty, with request for reply. (C-in-C., A.W.I., 2345/24).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic

French positions — 1300/24 (D.C. 0100/24).

British Convoys — Positions (D.C., 1808/24).

OG 22 Gibraltar Section arrived. (F.O.C. N.A., 2004/24).

South Atlantic

SEVILLA escort — Your 2145/23. Submarine reported 1300-GMT/23 in 32:42 N., 11:24 W., is French PROTEE, which escorted French tanker ARAGAZ. Destroyer escort not available for SEVILLA and apparently unnecessary. (French C. in C., S.A., to C. in C., S.A., 0953/24).

Force H. DECOY DEFENDER — Instructions, providing cover for whale oil ships (C. in C. S.A., 1530/24).

Mediterranean.

Danube Navigation — Repeating for information Belgrade T.H.I. 1315/19. Cold weather during last days delayed thaw and general navigation not expected until April 1. River mainly free Regensburg to Linz but congested Linz to Vienna. River free Vienna to Bratislava but mainly congested to Zemun. Local navigation thereafter until near Iron Gates where river much congested by heavy ice. (D.N.I. 1323/24 to C. in C. Med.). N.A. Bucharest keep C. in C., Med. informed regarding ice and navigation situation and instruct your assistants at Belgrade and Budapest accordingly. (D.N.I., 1325/24).

War Diary

24. 3. 40.
Sunday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

VILLE DE BRUGES	Short of water and with engine trouble 0849/24, 245 miles W. Bishops Rock. SLAVONIA proceed to assist. (C. in C. W.A. 1040/24) (N.O.I.C., Falmouth, 1145/24) (Lands End Radio, 0844/25).

War Diary

24. 3. 40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Weather

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	S.E. to S.W. moderate.	Moderate.
Horns Reef	S. Moderate	Poor
Channel & W. Approaches	S. to S.W. Moderate	Moderate

Outlook - Similar in North Sea, winds veering W. and visibility improving in Western Approaches and Channel.

Enemy Intelligence

Reported Raider, Denial. Berlin denies a report that the pocket battleship DEUTSCHLAND is in the Western Atlantic in search of the QUEEN MARY. (Rome Radio).

LUTZOW Polish source B.1 reports sailed Gdynia 27th returned 5 days later, oiled, ammunitioned and sailed 8/3, destination unknown (N.A. Copenhagen 1128/24).

D.D.I.C. 1333/24 see 22/3.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys (continued).

OA 116	Details (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1024/24, 1103/24).
OGF 24	OB 118 GF to R.V. with OA 118 GF at 1630/29, then becomes OGF 24. (C. in C., W.A., 1116/24).
OB 116	Details (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1207/24). Sailed (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1408/24).
OA 115 G	Addition to my 1157/23 (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1131/24).
SL 24	3 ships for degaussing. (D.T.D., 1614/24).

Denmark-Norway Traffic

Requesting whether a ship of 20ft. draught can be routed from Copenhagen to Bergen without leaving neutral territorial waters. (D.T.D. to Consul, Copenhagen, 2307/24). Reply, it is possible by crossing the Sound between Elsinore and Helsingborg (4 miles, considered international) and following Swedish and Norwegian Coasts. (N.C.S.O., Copenhagen, 0310/25).

Training Gunners

Ref. DEMS 68, in cases where Army personnel have a knowledge of Lewis guns opportunity should be taken for training merchant crews of coasters and short sea traders in use of this weapon during voyages. When available, Lewis gun may be mounted in vessels for this purpose in addition to Bren guns and should be retained permanently when Army personnel is withdrawn from the vessel. (D.T.D., 1111/24).

Ships Waiting Convoy

Total of 63 ships awaiting convoy, excluding ships from Aalesund. (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1317/24).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

QZ 475 — V.A.(S) reports QZ 475 restricts operation of submarines to an undesirable degree. If this area and that in Admiralty 1125/15/3 could be searched it would considerably facilitate operations besides being a most desirable precaution (ends). It is considered possible that the losses in area of QZ 475 were caused by torpedo, but it is requested you will investigate with T.S.D.S. fitted destroyers when opportunity occurs. (D.M.S., 1137/24 to C. in C. H.F.).

Safety of L.L. Trawlers — My 2220/23, defects to L.L. trawlers which exploded 4 mines yesterday inspected by Engineer Admiral and C.E. Sheerness. Description of damage, and suggested action to increase safety of L.L. trawlers. (C. in C. Nore, 2135/24, to Admiralty). Take action now as recommended in para. 1, 2135/24, in all L.L. trawlers fitted or fitting out. Further instructions will follow regarding action in paras. 2 and 3. (C. in C. Nore, 0031/25).

Sweeping — One mine cut N.W. of the Humber Light Vessel, and 3 mines cut in the Fairy Bank area during 24/3. (D.C.N.S., 203).

Shipping

Dutch shipping route — LAERTES sailed 23/3, Dutch Naval Authorities in form me they have instructed all further shipping from Flushing to proceed via Zuidcoote Pass (C-G. Amsterdam, 0430/24).

Convoys

Situation at 2000/24 (C. in C. W.A., 1334/24).

HN 21 — Has split. 9 ships with 2 destroyers proceeding to West coast. 31 ships with 4 destroyers and a submarine are N. of Kinnaird Head (0730) proceeding to Methil.

ON 22 — 24 ships of Methil portion is off Kinnaird Head (0730) escorted by 4 destroyers. 8 ships of Kirkwall portion and 2 cruisers not yet joined.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Delay in Reporting

A Bomber Command intelligence report giving the position of an aircraft carrier 15' off Lowestoft - turned out to be a false report - was not passed to Admiralty until 6¾ hours after the aircraft had landed and over 9 hours after the sighting. Delay being investigated. (D.C.N.S., 203).

Report was Bomber Command Intelligence Report, No. 317, 24/3, of three Wellington aircraft landed at Mildenhall, 0127, 0150 and 0257. (Bomber Command, 0955/24, Received 1111/24).
Extract:"WCA 180 at 53:0 N., 03:10 E., at 0010 hours, 1500 feet, two trawlers 4 miles apart, no lights, steaming 200 degrees approximately. These trawlers were also seen by WCA 182, at 52:30 N., 02:10 E., at 0030, 1500 feet, aircraft carrier stationary, one aircraft seen to take off with navigation lights on. This was also seen by WCA 182, but reported as being at 52:0 N., 2:30 E."

Foregoing report amended by Bomber Command Intelligence Report No. 318. Delete information regarding suspected aircraft carrier and substitute:- "At 52:30 N., 02:10 E., at 0030 hours, pilot of aircraft WCA 182 observed two long lines bright white lights on water extending in north west direction, slightly converging. Also some odd red light among white lights. Pilot states he saw a small biplane in flight which he thinks took off from these lights. He thought he saw the vague outline of a ship. This observation was only made by the aircraft WCA 182 and not by a second aircraft as originally reported. Pilot being re-interrogated by Group Naval Liaison Officer." (Bomber Command, 1340/24).

War Diary

24. 3. 40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Air searches & escorts

My 1902/23. All air searches except N.O.S. 5 and 6 postponed indefinitely on account of weather. Anticipated escorts able to proceed later. (C. in C. Rosyth 0710/24).

Air~~craft~~ escort of 2 Skuas for each HN and ON convoy will operate normally during daylight hours while convoys are on passage between Rattray and Sumburgh. (C. in C. Rosyth 0002/24).

Air reconnaissance curtailed by bad weather. Evening searches to the Dutch coast and towards Skagerrak were flown.

Submarines

R.A.(S) 1000/3/2. Request aircraft be instructed not to bomb submarines in certain areas until further notice (R.A.(S) 1058/24) (D.C., 1529/24).

Squadrons at Hatston

Fighter Command A.263/22/3. 800 Sqdn. comes under operational control of Sector Command, Wick, when disembarked at Hatston. It is for local naval authorities to decide whether 800 and 803 squadrons should operate as separate squadrons or in conjunction (Air Ministry 1700/24).

Sabotage

Bombs rendered unsafe in storage on camp. (R.N.A.S., Hatston, 1512/24).

Aircraft Action against shipping

Air Min. signal R.363, 4/2, instructions governing action of aircraft against shipping at sea, should be amended. (Air Ministry, 1230/24).

Enemy Air Activity

None except usual meteorological flight in early morning.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet — C. in C. in RODNEY, with WARSPITE, VALIANT, RENOWN, REPULSE and 15 destroyers in on patrol in northern waters.

Northern Patrol — Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 destroyer.

Submarines — Positions 0700/25 (D.C., 1826/24) 0600/25 and movements (R.A.(S) 1709/24).
Request aircraft instructed not to bomb submarines in certain areas (R.A.(S) 1058/24).

Port "B" — Suggesting 2 aircraft vessels based temporarily on Port B while GUARDIAN is laying nets at that port. No A/S vessels available from Rosyth Command. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1538/24).

Scapa — Progress Report. 56 heavy A/A guns in action 2 6" boom defence guns mounted at Hoxa. 10 balloons ashore and one on trawler, etc. etc. (R.A. Scapa 1029/24).

French Submarines — Admiralty 1530/23, procedure to be followed by French submarines leaving Brest. Concur. Ref. para. 3, there are 2 alternatives (a) For submarines to proceed to St. Helens Roads and sail with that section of OA Convoy, (b) For submarines under French escort to join OA Convoy at a convenient time after convoy passes the Lizard, usually at 0630 GMT (C. in C. W.A., 1826/24).

Operations

Submarines on Patrol — German OSTPREUSSEN, 3030 tons, is ashore six miles S.W. of Hirshals Light, near the Skaw, after striking a submerged object. TRIAD, on patrol off South Coast of Norway, has been sent to investigate. (D.C.N.S., 203).
For signals see German Merchant Ships.

War Diary

25. 3. 40.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

1 East of Orkneys, 1 West of Orkneys, 1 West of Shetlands, possibly 1 in Northern part of the Minches or homeward-bound therefrom. (I.C., 0400/40) (D.D.I.C., 1229/25).

1515 — Reported by A/S trawlers in 51:10 N., 04:20 W., about 9 miles N.W. of Bull Point, Devon. (C. in C. W.A., 1620/25).

1115 — Aircraft reported suspected submarines YNPV 4641. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1234/25). Report.considered unreliable (C. in C., Rosyth 1442/25).

1500 — U-boat sighted off Ilfracombe (C. in C., W.A., 1549/25, 1626/25).

0640 — U-boat reported off Bude Haven, 270° 1½ miles reliable fix. ACASTA & VIVACIOUS ordered to attack. (C. in C. W.A., 0734/25, 0847/25, VIVACIOUS, 0803/25.)

circa 2000 — ICARUS, IMPULSIVE, FIREDRAKE and 19th and 21st A/S S.F. sent to search for assailant of tanker DAGHESTAN. (A/S.W.D.204)

circa 0700 — ELECTRA, HOTSPUR and HERO sent to search for assailant of BRITTA. (A/S.W.D. 203).

Submarines Attacked

1445 — By H.M.T. KIRKELLA and BANDOLERO in Barnstaple Bay. Dropped 18 D.Cs. Submarine came to surface, Keel upwards at angle of 50° and then sank instantly, after which bubbles and thick oil appeared. (D.C.N.S. 204) (I.C., 0401/40). 51:20 N., 4:20 W., 228° Bull Point 9'. (KIRKELLA, 1900/25, C. in C. W.A. 1620/25, 2211/25). (A/S W.D. 203, 204). After attack U-boat broke surface. Both ships made further attack. BANDOLERO then observed periscope and later bows of U-boatbreaking surface and opened fire at 150 yards closing to under 100 yards. KIRRELLA carried out further attack, target remained stationary with large quantities of oil surfacing. (A.C.W.A., 1625/25). Seems almost certain submarine sunk (C. in C. W.A., 2218/27). ACASTA investigated, was unable to discover target. HAVANT searched, obtained contact 1805/29, dropped d.cs., no visible result, considered nature of target "doubtful". (A.S.W.D. 208, HAVANT 1805/29.

War Diary

25. 3. 40.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

BRITTA. 0652 sunk

Danish, 1146 tons, inward-bound, sunk at 0700, 40 miles north of Sule Skerry. (D.C.N.S.) (S.S. NANCY, 0652/25, 0700/25, 0743/25).

ELECTRA proceeded to help, (ELECTRA, 0725/24)

59:47 N., 4:30 W., 012° C. Wrath 75'. Torpedoed. (I.C., 0400/40) (A.S.W.D. 203). Crew saved by NANCY (Dutch S.S.). Aircraft found wreckage, no survivors (Aircraft 269 Sqdn., 0920/25)

DAGHESTAN sunk 2013

British tanker (5742 tons) apparently torpedoed at 2013/25 and sunk while on passage from Scapa to Sullum Voe under trawler escort, 5 miles N.E. Pentland Skerries 58:47 N., 2:50 W. 212° Copinsay 9'. Was under Government charter. NORTHERN DAWN 2013/25. Still afloat (NORTHERN DAWN, 2015/25, 2052/25, 2128/25). Ship broke in half, stern sank at 2218/25. BUCCANEER and tug KROOMAN sent to attempt salvage (A.C.O.S. 0140/26) 1 Marine DEMS rating missing (A.C.O.S. 1852/26) 58:46 N., 2:50 W. 2012 (M/S Summary No.23).

Crew 29, Master, 2nd Mate, Marine Gunner and 1 A.B. lost. A/S vessels NORTHERN DAWN and BRONTES picked up survivors. (S.O.(I) Orkneys & Shetlands No. 497 29/3/40).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

ANDROS	Intercept anchored yesterday 2300. To Elbeweser Radio (A.C.O.S. 1258/25).
ISLE L.M. RUSS	Arrived 0550/25 with fish oil and sailed south 1600 B.S.T. Description (Douglas Aalsund 1500/25) Passed to C.in C. H.F., TRIAD, V.A.(S) etd. (D.N.I. 2202/25).
ERIKA HENDRIK FISSER	Passed Aalsund 1900 fully loaded with ore south bound (N.C.S.O. Aalsund 2230/25). Passed to C. in C. H.F., TRIAD etc. (D.N.I. 0036/25).
ANTONIO DELFINO	Reported arrived at Haugesund 0930/25, escorted by a Norwegian warship (N.A. Oslo 1535/25). Passed, as B.1, to C. in C. H.F., submarines on patrol etc. (D.D.I.C. 1821/25).
OST PREUSSEN	No attempts to refloat yet observed. (TRIAD 1030/25). Captain informed Press she will probably be a total loss.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Russian Ships Continued

as not enough to reach Sarjon. (C. in C., China, 0325/25).

U.S.R. MAIAKOVSKY

which was intercepted E. of Japan 15/3 has developed steering defects. She is being sent into Mirs Bay, for fuel and repairs, after which the French will take her to Saigon.

Australia

MANOORA

C. in C. China's 0433Z/24. MANOORA arrives Darwin 29/3. (Australian N.B., 0355Z/25)

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Force H. DECOY, DEFENDER	Movements, sweep to provide cover for SOURABAYA and SYLVESTRIA (whale factory ships) which left South Georgia for Freetown 20/3 and 21/3. (C. in C. S.A. 1001/25).

Mediterranean.

Suez Bay, QUEEN MARY.	D. of S.T.'s 1228/21. Submarine cables in Suez Bay much restrict area available as anchorage and berths for all ships of U.S.2 fast group can be provided at one time only by accepting serious interference with field of fire of shore battery. Extra patrol craft therefore desirable to protect convoy in anchorage. QUEEN MARY will probably have to pass Newport Rock Channel near high water on departure or alternatively embark oil and water to south of it. Soundings being taken in Channel to confirm charted depth. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal Area, 1826/25).
SAKARYA	Stopped by British and ordered to proceed to Beirut. Carrying 2,000 Jews from Constanza trying illegally to enter Palestine (Press).

America & West Indies

Routing Ports	No ships routed since outbreak of war from Turks Island, St, Kilts, Grenada, St. Vincent. Suggest discontinuing them as routing ports. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1450/25).
QUEEN MARY	Left Trinidad 25/3. Expects to arrive Cape Town 2/4.

China

Russian Ships	Admiralty 1113/24 understood. French C. in C. not yet received any instructions. Operation facilitated if decision could be given on U.S.S.R. SELENGA so that French ARAMIS could take both ships to Saijon together. V. MAYAKOVSKY expected off Hong Kong 27/3, to be fuelled and provisioned,

(continued)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Positions — Convoys and patrols (D.C., 0353/25) (F.O.C.N.A., 1042/25).

Italy's attitude, Asking for French Co-operation — Re- reports about LUTZOW and tanker having left Germany early March to raid trade. French also received reports, but both from same source and not considered to be very positive. Desirable, however, that one or more battle cruisers be sent to Dakar. Freetown area. Possible also that Italy's attitude may call for concentration in Mediterranean and in order to provide necessary battleships for this RENOWN and REPULSE must be kept in North Sea arm. HOOD not available as her condensers must be retubed. Please ask Admiral Darlau if he could send now either ore or two French battle-cruisers to to Dakar in case a raider is out. Even if raider is not out it would have very good deterrent effect if it were known there were battle-cruisers in Dakar area (D.O.D.(F) 1454/25 to B.N.L.O. Marceau).

South Atlantic

NEW SEVILLA)
SVENDFOYN)
Whaling Ships) — Movements (D.T.D. 1225/25, 1227/25).

Convoy — SL 26, ships for. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 0917/25).

GRAF SPEE **medical complement** — Your 1203/23. Even allowing for extended cruise of GRAF SPEE, 50 grossly excessive. Medical war complement of comparable H.M.ships 4 officers, 5 ratings. Argentine authorities should be urged to refuse, if not, to examine most carefully claim of any officer or man to be regarded as part of medical staff before exempting him from internment. (Hd. of M., 1925/25, to N.A., Buenos Aires).

War Diary

25. 3. 40.
Monday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

DRECHTDYK.	Aground, probably Varne. (N. Foreland Radio, no T.O.O., recd. 1950/25, 2125/25). Approx. position 50:59 N., 1:21 E. (N. Foreland Radio, no T.O.O., recd. 2210/25).
VERBANIA	Distress in 60° N., 11° W. NORTHERN DUKE searched but unable to contact tug. D/F of tug unsatisfactory. (NORTHERN DUKE 1910/25). Effected contact with BRIGAND, VERBANIA, NORTHERN WAVEand NORTHERN GEM, estimated 60:16 N., 11:24 W. (NORTHERN DUKE 0950/26). Tow to Stowaway (F.O.C.O.S. 1229/26).
EMPIRE HENCHMAN	? in tow. (Lands End Radio 0826/25).

War Diary

25. 3. 40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU — Reliable information indicates capable of 30 knots. (A.D.N.I.(E), 1314/25).

Weather

	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	S. - S.E., light.	Moderate, coastal fog.
Channel	E. light.	Moderate, coastal fog.
Western Approaches	E. - N.E., moderate.	Moderate.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

Dispositions. (D.C., 1809/25).

HN 21	Arrived Methil. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1104/25)
ON 22	(Six destroyers and SHEFFIELD and AURORA as cover) is off Sumburgh Head before crossing North Sea.
HN 23	Due to leave Norwegian territorial waters 30/3 will have to run in two parts owing to accumulation of shipping (D.O.D.(H), 1250/25).
OG 23	15 ships. WANDERER, ABERDEEN remaining in company until dark 27/3. French escort TIGRE, VIKING (C. in C. W.A., 1158/25).
HX 24	On time at R.V. but only 20 ships in company. Straggling due to weather conditions on first 3 days. (D.T.D., 1631/25).
SL 26	Ships for. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 0917/25).

Ships Waiting Convoy

Owing to congestion in harbour authorities are stopping ships at outside anchorage and number of ships does not therefore, represent total waiting convoy. (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1233/25).

HX Convoys, Rendezvous

In view of large number of ships in HX convoys which lose touch with the convoy during the first few days, considered that a daylight rendezvous should be given in approx. 40° W., so that stragglers which have the speed may rejoin. Standard route system should not take effect until eastward of this longitude. Request remarks. (D.T.D., 1741/25 to C.O.A.C., Halifax).

HX Escorts

R.A. 3's 1027/19 and my 1215/17.
Request you will make similar arrangements direct with Admiral Ouest with regard to French submarines BEVEZIERS and also on all future occasions when French submarines escort HX (D.O.D. (F) 1611/25 to C. in C. W.A.).

War Diary

25.3.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Explosions Reported

0645 8 m. 160° Bawdsey.

0735 5 m. S.S.E. Clacton.

0922 3 m. S.S.E., Frinton.

0920 2 m. W.N.W. Mouse L.V. (2).

0917 1 in vicinity of E. Goodwin. (I.C., 0400/40).

C. in C. Nore reports that between 0640 and 1219/25 at least 7 and possibly 9 explosions were heard between Lowestoft and Walton, most of them from a considerable distance. One of these explosions seems to have been due to mines exploded by D.W.I. and another to a floating mine exploded off Felixtowe. The remainder are unexplained.

Unexplained explosions were also reported off mouth of Humber, and two heavy explosions were reported at 0920 near Maplin Sands (I.C. 0401/40).

Dover Minefields

Admiralty 1912/24, para 4. As operation lies outside Dover Command, do not consider I can satisfactorily exercise the close control which is necessary in this operation. Submit orders for it should be issued under direction of C. in C. Nore. Owing to enemy mining to eastward of Goodwins no advantage would be gained by sending PRINCESS VICTORIA to Dover. (V.A. Dover, 1216/25).

V.A. Dover's 1216 and Admiralty's 2011/20. Better and more logical for subsequent lines to be laid by order of V.A. Dover. Area Varne Colbert is much nearer to Dover while lines D.1 and D.2 are in area where V.A. Dover has already completed part of the operation. Nore Command will owe all assistance possible but consider the determining factor is the expert knowledge and minelaying experience possessed by Dover Command. (C. in C. Nore, 1900/25).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Mines, false report. Daily Telegraph report 25/3 concerning new German mines after loss of HEDDERNHEIM untrue. (N.A., Copenhagen, 1835/26).

Air.

Searches for tomorrow (C. in C., Rosyth, 1628/25).

Attack on Trawler My 1330/23, German aircraft attacked trawler South of Dogger Bank. Information given to me by Dutch naval authorities. (N.A., Hague, 1208/25).

Mining

Humber Area Dangerous area due to mines enclosed between lines joining North Middle Buoy, Middle Light Vessel, and 270° North Middle Buoy 1 mile. (D.M.S., 1253/25).

Minesweeping reports D.W.I., exploded 2 mines today 049° 3.3 miles and 055° 4.4 miles from Tongue L.V. (C. in C. Nore, 1814/25). Clearance of Downs - Holland area is continuing - 2 mines were cut and one exploded in a sweep 25/3. (D.C.N.S. 204).

Scapa No evidence of any mine in the Flow at present, but if mine recovery vessels FRONS OLIVAE, and ACHIEVABLE not required elsewhere, suggest they might remain here for present. (A.C.O.S. 1155/25).

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

C. in C., in RODNEY, with WARSPITE, RENOWN, REPULSE and 15 destroyers, is covering the Northern Patrol and operating to-day north of the line Faroes - Langanaes (E. extremity of Iceland).

Available destroyers of 6th and 4th Flotillas at Scapa will be hunting submarines in co-operation with extensive air patrols westward of Orkneys and Shetlands.

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes, trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland, 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait, 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

Submarines

Positions 0600/26 (D.C., 2022/25) (R.A.(S) 1656/25).

Operations

Submarines on Patrol. Iron Ore Trade.

TRIAD to leave patrol after sunset 26/3. TRIDENT to relieve. (Capt. (S)2, 1459/25)

Seems probable that the submarines which sank the German merchant ships slightly exceeded their instructions. Submarines now on patrol are likely to follow the example of the first 2 unless specially ordered not to do so. Not my intention to issue any such order at present. So long as our submarines do not infringe neutral territorial waters and the safety of German crews is assured, we are unlikely to offend the susceptibilities of neutrals and may succeed in temporarily dislocating the German iron ore trade. (V.A.(S) 1136/25 to C. in C. H.F.

SEAL

SEAL, operations of from 17/3 and interception of Danish CYRIL, closely resembling JOHANN BLUMENTAL, 23/3, (V.A.(S), 1707/25).

SEAWOLF

SEAWOLF to investigate report from aircraft proceeding and returning from patrol fired on in position 53:35 N., 04:25 E. (R.A.(S) 0745/25).

TRIAD

My 1634/24. At your discretion resume patrol in accordance with Capt. (S)2, 1856/23. (R.A.(S) to TRIAD, 1128/25).

SALMON

Patrol report from 7/3 to 16/3 (V.A.S., No. Ab. 197/1031) (N.I.D., 01219/40).25/3/40.

War Diary

26. 3. 1940.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked

COMETA sunk 0100 Norwegian, 3794 tons, torpedoed and sunk 80 miles west of Shetlands 315° Noup Head 67. Bound from Oslo to Buenos Aires with general cargo, but was intercepted north of Faroes and was on passage to Kirkwall for examination with an armed guard. Crew (31), passengers (6) and armed guard (5) rescued by armed boarding trawler NORTHERN SKY. (D.C.N.S. 205) (NORTHERN SKY 1600/26). No casualties. Survivors landed Kirkwall 0800/27. The Chief Officer took the ship's manifest to the submarine. The German commander allowed an hour for ship to be abandoned and after making sure that all the lifeboats were clear he sank the ship by torpedo and gunfire. The Chief Officer took care not to inform the enemy that a British Guard had been on board and were later in the boats. (V.A.N.P. 1147/27, as corrected, M06437/40). Asking what explanation can be given for ship being sent to Kirkwall (N.A. Oslo, 1400/2) COMETA was being brought in in normal course for examination of cargo and passengers. No report of sailing or request for special facilities was received by Adty. or M.E.W. On last inward voyage Master stated Navicerts were being held for all cargo when it is practically certain he must have known same had been refused. Therefore ship was not regarded with confidence (D.N.I. 1716/7 to C. in C.H.F.

S/ms. Reported

Estimated dispositions, 1 E. of Orkneys, 2 patrolling westward of Orkneys and Shetlands, possibly 1 in northern part of North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1222/26).

0818 My 2211/25. Investigate KIRKELLA's contact. (C. in C.W.A. to ACASTA 0818/26). Corrected posn. 328° Bull Point 9 miles (C. in C.W.A. 0959/26) (Bristol Channel). My 1950/26. KIRKELLA was in contact from time of attack till 0700/26 when her asdic broke down. Target being stationary. Carry out further search. (C. in C.W.A. 1158/27 to ACASTA).

2310 D.F. unknown, German unit, probably U-boat, north of 60° N. (D.C. 2355/26).

S/ms Attacked.

War Diary

26. 3. 1940
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

China

RENDSBURG	At Batavia.	Especially active
VOGTLAND	AT Batavia.	Especially active
CASSEL	At Sourabaya.	Especially active.

(B.O.) (N.O.I.C. Port Darwin, 1032Z/26)
(See also FOREIGN STATIONS; China).

War Diary 26.3. 40.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

JOHANN BLUMENTHAL	Left Arendal between 1900/25 and 0700/26. (D.D.I.C. 1214/16, Garuthrop, Arendal 1010/26)
ANTONIO DELFINO	Repert that if British ships take action in Norwegian territorial waters, Norwegian warships ordered to open fire. (R.A.(S) to s/ms. on patrol 2145/26) (D.C. to V.A.(S) from north with white line around hull same as vessels of Norwegian shipowner Knutsen. (Haugesund 1625/26) Entered Norwegian waters in vicinity of Tromso, ship searched and nothing suspicious found. (N.A. Oslo, 1700/26)
ALTMARK	Sailed from Sandefjord 0300/21, German tug in attendance. (N.A. Oslo 1700/26). (D.D.I.C. 1123/27).
P.C. 102) P.G. 290))	Trawlers, loaded, passed southward 1530 (Haugesund 1635/26) (D.D.I.C. 1123/27)
ILSE L.M. RUSS	My 1500/25. Returned during night. (N.C.S.O. Aalsund, 0900/26) (D.D.I.C. 1555/26 to C. in C.H.F., V.A.(S) TRIAD, etc.)
PRIAMUS	Left Trondheim, 24/3. (N.C.S.O. Trondheim 1500/26) (D.D.I.C. 1123/27).
HERO	Arrived Trondheim - do -

America and West Indies.

HANNOVER	My 1750/20. Generator failed test, armature being re-wound. Crew not now required before 14/4. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1700/26)

South Atlantic

KONIGSBERG	Loading 2000 tons rubber, ready to go. (Cable intercept, Rio, 1100/26.)
BABITONGA	Santos report (A.2.) Berthing shortly to load cargo. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2206/26)
DRESDEN	-do-
WINDHUK	A.3. report, endeavouring to take on board replacement engine parts removed by Brazilian authorities. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2206/26)

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

German ships — Japanese Government considering whether plan can be devised which would liberate some of these ships without conferring any sort of benefit on Germany, thus ensuring British assent (Sir R. Craigie (Tokyo) No. 500 26/3.

German Merchant Ships. — In Dutch East Indies, appreciation. Information indicates some ships may be ready to sail at beginning of April. Previous activities in Dutch East Indies in relation to movements of raider have suggested merely designs to keep our force occupied. In present case evidence is circumstantial and preparations must be costing considerable sum. (Capt. on Staff, SULTAN, 0952Z/26)

My 0952Z/26. Is there any hardening of Germany's attitude to Holland which might account for reported intention of German ships to sail from N.E.I.? The generally anticipated sailing of further Australian convoys may be suggesting to Dutch authorities an opportunity of sailing unmolested. (C.I.S. Singapore 1146/26).

SALEIER. Dutch Contraband. — Dutch SALAIER sailed Downs 19/2, master giving undertaking to call Singapore to discharge certain cargo ordered placed in prize. Eluded GRASSHOPPER on approved patrol night 24-25/3 and proceeded for Batavia. Suggest action with Dutch authorities in view of failure to fulfil obligation. (R.A. Malaya, 0747Z/26, 0247Z/26) Your 0747. Ship arrived Toftossen 27/3. Prize cargo will be shipped to Singapore. TALISSE, 29/3. Netherland S.S.Co. owners, state that instructions from Amsterdam were to this effect. (Consul-General, Batavia, 0840Z/27).

East Indies

Defence of Oilfield. — Army reconnaissance of Basra in connection with defence of oilfield starting 5/4 at Basra. (C. in C.E.I. 0401Z/26).

America & West Indies

CHIOS S/m. supply ship — D.N.I. Melbourne's 1239/12, CHIOS reported used as supply ship for German s/ms. CHIOS (Greek) left 25/3, Gibraltar 13/4, nitrate for Venice. S.O.I. Kingston, 1713/26.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Convoys — Positions (D.C. 1829/26)

French Forces — Positions (D.C. 0130/26)

South Atlantic

DIAMOND — To proceed forthwith at 20 knots to cover cable ship MIRROR repairing St. Vincent to Bathurst cable in position 5 to 9 miles S. of St. Vincent Verde Is. (C. in C.S.A. 102L/26).

French Patrol off Brazil coast. — My 1044/8. These patrols have been temporarily withdrawn pending decision by French. (C. in C. S.A. 1012/26)

GRAF SPEE — Admty. 1828/22 and S.O.I. Montevideo's 1559/24, re report of refusal of GRAF SPEE crew to proceed to sea on 16/12. From personnel observation do not think that more than a small party of men were involved in the disturbance. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1750/26)

L'ESTEREL — Incident of armed boat of French A.M.C. L'ESTEREL off Amazon on 8/3 detained by police. (A.N.A., Rio de Janeiro 1600/26)

French Patrols — My 1044/8/3. These patrols have been temporarily withdrawn by French (C. in C.S.A. 1812/26)

German Charts — German merchant ships haveeexceptionally good Brazilian coast charts. If any captured, request spare copies. (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1100/26).

Visit to Para — If in near future one of H.M. ships is south bound from West Indies, submit that call at Para would be beneficial (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1059/26).

Force H. — Instructions for covering of NEW SEVILLA, SOURABAYA and SYLVESTRA. (C. in C.S.A. 1325/26) (Whale oil ships).

War Diary

26. 3. 1940.
Tuesday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

Home Commands

RYAL — British M.V. slight damage, grounding. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1655/26)

PRINSKNUD — Went ashore 2/2 in Goswick Bay, Northumberland. Refloated 1819/26 and is being towed to Tyne. (C. in C. Rosyth 1937/26).

Foreign Stations

CLAN MACDOUGALL — Cancel my 0948/25. Ship arrived 20/3 Durban (S.O.(I) Cape Town 1131/26)

War Diary

26. 3. 40.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Pilotage Fee — Refusal of Norwegian COLOMBIA in ON 15 to pay. (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1211/26) Your 1211/26. Masters were told in general statement at conference that pilots were being arranged for all ships. Master of COLOMBIA made no objection. (D.T.D. 1828/27).

Miscellaneous

BRANKSEA Sabotage — My 1637/10/2. Prolonged investigation has not disclosed any grounds for suspicion of sabotage (C. in C. Rosyth 1815/26)

Ice Conditions — On Northern Patrol (C.S.I. 1200/26). Esbjerg and West Coast now clear. Kattegat drifting ice not affecting shipping. Little Belt blocked. Great Belt and Sound heavy drifting ice making navigation difficult. German mines in drifting ice prevent night ferry service. No through passage to Baltic. (A.1.) (N.A. Copenhagen 1835/26).

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Variable, easterly	Moderate	Similar
Channel	N.E. Fresh	Moderate	Similar
W. Approaches ..	N. Fresh	Moderate	Similar
Horns Reef	Variable, light	Fog	Wind becoming easterly.

Enemy Intelligence

Concentration at Kiel. — Report of Finn named Thorsten Fock, states master of Finnish ship HERMES, lying Kiel, that between 15 and 21/3 45 to 50 German merchant vessels concentrated through Canal to Kiel. Range up to 8,000 tons, armed fore and aft and with A.A. gun. German ships MONTA ROSA and MONTE SARMIENTO, former taking in large quantity of apparent provisions and having flying personnel on board. Fock told destination of ships was Stettin, also that evacuation plans for Hamburg and other places were to be put into force April 1. C.2. (A.N.A. Stockholm, 2020/26, 1146/27).

Hamburg evacuation

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Sweeping Reports (Contd.)

Conditions unsuitable (Cdre i/c Sheerness 1836/26)

Weather interfered (F.O.i/c Greenock 1829/26)

D.W.I. postponed (C. in C. Nore 1701/26)

Seven mines cut in the N. Foreland - Holland route 26/3 (D.C.N.S. 205)

Unusual mines

Unusual type of mine exploded 1945/23 by M/V ANNE M 045° Folkestone Gate 2 miles (N.C.S.O. London 1616/26)

New German Mine

Reliably reported that a small type of mine, 8 to 10 inches out of water, has been sighted in large numbers, in groups of from 5 to 12, over a wide area ventred roughly 70 miles N. by E. of Ostend (I.C. 0401/40).

Shipping

Convoys

ON 22	24 ships, was east of Shetlands at 0730, escorted by 6 destroyers and an A.A. cruiser, and covered by SHEFFIELD and AURORA. Delayed. (D.T.D. 1036/26)
Situation	At 2000/26 (C. in C.W.A. 1246/26) (D.C.1829/26)
OA 117	(N.C.S.O. Thames 1309/26, 1221/26, C. in C. Portsmouth 1740/26)
HGF 24	Route (F.O.C.N.A. 0930/26) List (F.O.C.N.A. 0943/26).
HN 22	34 for E. Coast, 6 for W. Coast (D.T.D. 1533/26, 1226/26). Route (D.T.D. 2308/26). Route in case of separation (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1115/26)
HX 26	Arrived with VIMY (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1555/26) (After being delayed 48 hours).
OA 119	Route (A.C.W.A. 1001/26)
OG 23	Route etc. (C. in C.W.A. 1127/26, 1128/26)
OHN 23	GALATEA and ARETHUSA to cover (F.O.C.2.C.S. 0915/26, C. in C. Rosyth 1518/26).
Slow Convoys . ..	Forecast (N.C.S.O. Humber 1715/26).

Protection of Danish Ships

Request information as to protection for Danish ships to West Coast ports after crossing North Sea in convoy. Master unwilling to sail to West Coast unless protection is available throughout voyage from Bergen. (N.C.S.O. Copenhagen, 1720/26) Reply, anxiety not considered justified (D.T.D. 1358/27)

War Diary

26. 3. 1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements

Home Fleet — C. in C. in RODNEY, with WARSPITE, RENOWN, REPULSE and 15 destroyers covering the Northern Patrol in the area north of Iceland - Faroes. An extensive air and destroyer A/S search of the Orkney area has been arranged for 26/3 and 27/3.

Northern Patrol — Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.C.s
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

French Positions — 1200/26. (D.C.0130/26)

13th French S/m Division. — May be ready to leave Brest about 10/4 for Portsmouth (D.O.D.(H) 1943/26)

Submarines — Positions 0600/27 (R.A.(S) 1629/26, D.C. 1801/26)

Operations

S/ms. on Patrol — Report received that if British ships take action against ANTONIO DELFINO in Norwegian territorial waters Norwegian warships have orders to open fire (B.O.) (D.C. 1943/26 to V.A.(S) (R.A.(S) to s/ms. on patrol 2145/26)

Air

Enemy Air Activity. — NEWCASTLE reported 1 aircraft identity unknown bearing 120° 6 miles course 100°. Her position D.K.W.S. 5657 (NEWCASTLE, 0740/26).

British air activity — North Sea patrols were largely curtailed by weather.

Mining

NARWHAL — Programme (R.A.(S) 1334/26)

Sweeping reports

Harwich and Yarmouth no sweeping on account of weather. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1940/26)

Fog interfered (F.O.i/c Tyne 1901/26)

- do - (F.O.i/c Humber 1836/26)

War Diary.

27.3.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/M's reported.

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C.1140/27).

1158 — ACASTA ordered to carry out further search for KIRKELLA's contact (C-in-C., W.A. 1158/27) see Z6/3.

1933 — By D/F 50 miles N.W. of Scilly Is. 3 destroyers ordered to hunt 50°45'N, 7°W approx. (I.C.0403/40). Probably making for the Fastnet (C-in-C., W.A. 2130/27).

1654 — 57°N 0° to 1°E. Position indefinite (I.C.0403/40).

U.21 Interned.

1300 — Reported from that a S/M had gone aground off Mandal, South Norway (58°28 N, 7°20'E) and had refloated 1800 with an engine damaged (Dornier, Oslo 2100/27, D.N.I. 2312/27, 1335/28.

2136 — D/F of enemy unit making a long message S.W. of Mandal 58.02 N,07°30'E, 25 miles W. of Kristiansand possibly same S/M as above, returning to Germany. British S/M's on patrol were informed. HQ. Coastal command sent 3 Hudsons to search in the area north of Horns Reef at 0800/28.

Al. French Vice Consul informs me a German S/M in damaged condition just arrived Christiansund south escorted by a Norwegian warship (V-C.,Kristiansand 1430/28) U.21 ran ashore midnight 26/3 refloated 1200/27 and proceeded into shelter in Norwegian waters with one engine damaged. German N.A. informed Defence Dept. that S/M had been damaged at sea and through stress of weather obliged to proceed into Norwegian waters. Capt of S/M's statement of damage being caused through running ashore was however known at Norwegian Adty. and decision was taken at midnight to intern the S/M. (N.A. Oslo 1100/28). Suspected that S/M intended to enter very good shelter for a rest, missed entrance by narrow margin (N.A. Oslo 1830/28) U.21 interned (N.A. Oslo 1045/28). U.21 was interned solely on grounds that she had entered Norwegian territorial waters ever though it was due to fault of navigation. Norwegian Naval Authorities not sure their Govt. was right. It is felt Govt. wish to make a gesture in view of late articles in British and French press. Norwegian Naval forces were sent before German Minister, Oslo was informed as it was feared German Govt. might send forces to rescue. In addition, all telephonic communication between Sorlandet and Oslo and abroad was stopped. Strong German protest expected. German N.A. has given Norwegian Govt. a stronger hand by remarking on telephone, and taken off on dictaphone, to Duty Officer, Norwegian Adty., if it was not possible to release S/M before receiving Norwegian Naval Officer's report on spot as their S/M commanders are young and inexperienced and consequently not good navigators and also not well acquainted with neutrality regulations.Commander of U.21 is 25 years old. (N.A. Oslo 1800/28).

War Diary. 27.3.40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

NORDSTERN — Hailed with general cargo (Gothenburg 1630/27).

North Atlantic.

ANTARKTIS
BRAKE — Tanker ANTARKTIS has moved alongside BRAKE. (Consul, Vigo, 1735/27).

America & West Indies.

? VANCOUVER — Curacoa reports a ship loading Ceracas Bay 28/3 (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1752/27).

South Atlantic.

WINDHUK — German Embassy's appeal against embargo opening 3/4 (AN.A Rio de Janeiro 1029/27). Endeavoring to make on board replacement engine parts removed by Brazilian authorities. Reported to be shortly proceeding to sea, A.3. (At Santos) (S.O.(I) Freetown 1655/27, A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1739/27).

BABITONGA)
DRESDEN) — N.I.S.O. Santos reports shortly berthing to load cargo, A.2, (S.O.(I) Freetown 1655/27) Will shortly be sailing (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1739/27).

China.

SCHEER
SCHARNHORST — R.O. Macassar reports loading cargo. Estimated ready to sail night 31/3. Possibly distraint may be lifted shortly. C3. (C.O.I.S. Far East 1616/27). Another copy of the signal calls her SCHARNHORST, not SCHEER.

SONECK — Consul reports ships at Surabaya, Batavia, and SONECK at Padang on 26/3 commenced loading cargo, B2. mostly consigned to Germany or by German consignors in N.E.I, B.3. This appears to give expected movement a definite object and action is similar to that which preceeded attempts by ships on other coasts to break through to Germany. Most likely destination Vladivostok as doubtful that ships have sufficient fuel for more than 7000 to 9000 miles, C3. Intercepted letters indicate Vladivostok, BC. (C.O.I.S. Far East 0947Z/27).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

ANTONIO DELFINO.	In ballast alongside jetty at Kopervik, C.3. (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 1248/27). Still here. Please telegraph her recent position should there be any possibility of her having laid mines. (Bermardes, Haugesund, 1810/27). Due to sail 28/3 or 29/3, Al. (N.A. Oslo, 1900/27.
DERNDJE	Arrived from south loaded to complete with herring meal (Bemardes, Haugesund, 1810/27).
BOCHUM	Passed southwards 1350 (Bemardes, Haugesund, 1810/27) loaded with ore (D.D.I.C. 2240/27 to S/M's on patrol etc.).
Coal Traffic.	A.1 report, Bremen has stopped sailing colliers East Coast of Denmark via Skagerrak. Esbjerg only Danish port. My 2300/12/2. The larger vessels are passing to westward and are using Normans DYB, where patrol vessels have now been increased. (Consul, Esbjerg, 0030/27).
MIMI HORN	Reported arrived vicinity Tromso 25/3. (D.D.I.C., 1123/27).
SEATTLE	Reported arrived vicinity Tromso 25/3. (D.D.I.C., 1123/27).
ILSE M. RUSS	Sailed from south (N.C.S.O Aalsund 1930/27, D.C. 0127/28 to S/M's etc).
Disguised ship.	German vessel or fishing vessel possibly disquised as a neutral suspected of using W/T in Norwegian territorial waters may pass by Haugesund on or about 28/3. Please report name and / or number of any suspicious vessel. (D.N.I. 1738/27). Expected to enter Stavanger night 27/3. (D.N.I. 1948/27).
THESEUS	Sighted in air search JSND 2650 320 (C-in-C., Rosyth 2232/27). Intercept at 1603 GMT believed to be S.O.S., and 1605 position 58°32'N., 05°40'., word jammed believed to be S.O.S. (F.O. Humber, 1901 /27), May be ashore. S.O.S. (D.N.I. 2010/27) Cancel my 2010/27 (D.D.I.C. 1707/29).
ALTMARK	Passed Great Belt last night. Risk of this passage. (N.A. Copenhagen 2037/27).
KIEL	Arrived 27/3. (Gibbs, Narvik, 1249/27, D.D.I.C., 1746/27 to S/M's etc.).
GODFRIED BUREN.	Now loading ore (do).

War Diary.

27.3.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

4S/M's to proceed to Mediterranean. D.O.D.(F) 2146/27 see Mediterranean.

China.

S/M's to proceed to Mediterranean. D.O.D.(F) 2148/27 see Mediterranean.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French positions. 1300/27 (D.C., 0010/27).

Convoys etc. Positions (D.C., 1839/27).

South Atlantic.

Whaling Ships. Movements etc. (D.T.D., 1830/27).

D.O.D.(F) 2147/27 see Mediterranean.

AQUITANIA Is at Capetown.

Mediterranean.

Contraband Control. Your 1325/14. No action required at present. Whole subject of contraband control Eastern Mediterranean is undergoing examination. (D.E.W.D. to C-in-C., Med., 1731/27).

Italian
ASMARA Your No. 65/40 to D.N.I. Ask Ministry of Marine same questions as your French colleague. Question concerning cargo should be first. (DN.I. 1705/27 to N.A. Rome). Refers to Italian naval auxiliary ASMARA engaging in commercial activities. (Reply 1/4).

French Forces. Movements (S.O.I., Gibraltar 1214/27).

America & West Indies.

QUEEN MARY
MAURETANIA Admlty. 1053/27, reported leakage of information. My 1138/23 refers. Full report will be furnished when N.C.S.O. New York's report has been received. (N.S.A.D., Ottawa, 1053/27). MAURETANIA passed through Panama Canal 27/3, left Balboa for Honolulu 27/3.

S/M Reported of Ocos (between San Jose and Salvador frontier) seen by over 100 people. Cannot dismiss it as a mare's nest. (Mr. Leche (Quatemala) No. 62, 26/3).

East Indies.

Italian Vol. Pl. ARFAR telegram 44 of 14/3, cargo in Italian Vol Pl concerned is below. All other cargo, unloading would greatly delay ship. Suggest Singapore. (C-in-C., E.I. 0202Z/27).

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

2 KOLN class cruisers and 2 destroyers at sea. (See Air). 2350/27). Passed to all ships (C-in-C., H.F. 2035/27). Passed to S/M's on patrol (R.A.(S)

Other war-ships sighted. See Air.

Dutch trawler seized. By 2 German armed trawlers 21/3 54° 3'N, 4°E A1. Minor details etc., Netherlands Press Summary 26/3 (N.A. Hague, 1220/27).

German Trawlers. Pilots ordered to take 35 large German trawlers northward through fjords, leaving German port when passage is free for navigation (A2). One German Harstad 4/3 northward (A1) Several German trawlers fishing off Andenes since beginning of March calling Harstad. (A1) (Narvik 1615/27).

Coal traffic.. Colliers stopped sailing east coast of Denmark etc. See German Merchant Ships.

Operations.

Iron ore Traffic. Ref. O.I.C. Daily Report, 21/3, information that Narvik ore ships follow coast to Gothenburg then cross to Skaw is graded B.3, no further confirmation received. (D.D.I.C., 1124/27).

German routes. A.1, Bremen has stopped sailing colliers East Coast of Denmark via Skagerrak. Esbjerg only Danish port. My 2300/12/2. Larger vessels passing to westward and are using Normans Dyb, where patrol vessels have now been increased. (Consul, Esbjerg, 0030/27).

War Diary.

27.3.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

ON.23	C-in-C., Rosyth's 1816/25 and HZ.11 para 16. As convoy is now being routed westwards of Shetlands propose to sail to rendezvous with ON.23 in vicinity of Muckle Flugga p.m. 29/3. (F.O.C. 2 C.S., 1020/27). Sailed (C-in-C., Rosyth 1602/27). (N.C.S.O., Methil 1451/27).
OB.119	Route (W.C.S.O., Mersey 1115/27).
HN.23.B.	Leave 1900/31/3. (A.D.T.D., 1827/27).
HX.30.	Ocean route 4th position. (D.T.D.1112/27).
SL.24	24 hours late at R.V. (C-in-C., W.A. 1457/27).
Situation	2000/27 (C-in-C., W.A. 1251/27).

Consigs. Report when ready to issue. (D.T.D., 1550/27, to Consuls, Bergen, etc.).

Miscellaneous.

M.F. & H.F. D/F Stations. Inefficiency of station in Stetlands. (C-in-C., H.F. 1507/23 recd. 27/3).

Ice Conditions. Ice conditions at Spitzbergen now permit first 2 ships, MUNIN and VIRMA, to proceed there, sailing from Harstad to-day or tomorrow. (Tromsoe, 1305/27).

WEATHER.

0500	Wind	Visibility.
Eastern North Sea) Horns Reef.)	E. Moderate	Poor.
Western North Sea) Channel) Western Approaches)	N. Strong to gale.	Poor.

Outlook. N.W. winds over whole area, moderating.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sweeping reports. Curtailed by bad weather (V.A. Dover 1921/27). Granton, curtailed. Peterhead, Aberdeen nil. Invergordon cutailed, weather (C-in-C., Rosyth 1901/27) M.Sweeping abandoned. All operations curtailed by weather. Hartlepool nil. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1845/27).
Nil, weather (F.O. Humber, 1843/27,)Cdn. I/C Sheerness 1836/27, N.O. I/C Liverpool, 1713/27, ACOS 1630/27.
Harwich, curtailed. Yarmouth, nil, weather (F.O. I/C, Harwich 1836/27, COVXF 1821/27.

Operation N.M.S.2. BORDE to sail 28/3 for operation. (C-in-C., Nore 2339/27).

Unexplained explosions. Heard 1704 by Mundesley C.G. followed by large column of water 034° 3 miles Mundesley lookout. No shipping near (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1735/27). See also 28/3.

Shipping.

Stern lights etc. Ships unfit to join convoy. Several cases recently, mostly neutrals, of ships arriving Kirkwall unable to dim navigation lights, have no shaded stern light, no proper communication from bridge to engine room, unable to darken ship. No tim or facilities to prepare ships at Kirkwall; Strong effort to be made to ensure they are fit for inclusion in convoys. (D.T.D., 1551/27).

Your 1720/26. Degree of protection in any one area varies according to circumstances and is secret. In area mentioned ships in convoy receive certain protection and have enjoyed immumity from attack for some time. Anxiety of Masters not justified at present. (D.T.D., 1358/27 to B.C. Copenhagen).

Clyde. Re. proposed near channel for merchant shipping (D.O.D.(H) 1842/27). Consider undesirable in principle and would require additional M/S vessels (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1912/28).

Convoys. Positions.

ON.22 (D.C., 1839/27).
24 ships, escorted by 6 destroyers, 1 A/A cruiser and 2 cruisers, expected off Norway at daylight. (D.C.N.S.).

HN.22 40 ships, to leave Norway on arrival of ON. convoy. (D.C.N.S. (D.T.D. 1204/27), (1734/27).

OA.117 VANESSA left with Portsmouth Section. (C-in-C., P., 0551/27).

War Diary.

27.3.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd).

ALTMARK — Passed through Great Belt night 26/27 March and anchored between Lolland and Longeland early am/27 presumably to await arrival of German minesweepers. She took great risk in making passage still considered impossible by expert opinion. There are still no navigation aid test positions to assist passage through either minefield (N.A. Copenhagen 2037/27).

Air.

British Air Activity.

Flakships Attacked. — Four Flakships bombed YNJV 4056 0925, one believed sunk (A/C 220 Sqn. 1100/27, Donibristle ~~the~~ No, T.O.O. re. 1450/27).

Cruisers & destroyers attacked. — 2 KOLN class cruisers, 2 destroyers sighted 1327 53°55'N 6°5'E (off Borkum) one destroyer bombed, missed. (HQBC 1720/27) Further bomber a/c's were sent out to locate this force but failed to make contact.

Cruisers & destroyers attacked. — 2 KÖLN class cruisers 2 destroyers sighted 1327 53°55'N, 6°5'E (off Borkum) one destroyer bombed, missed. (HQBC 1720/27). Further bomber a/c's were sent out to locate this force but failed to make contact.

Offensive reconnaissance. — In Heligoland Bight, 53°57'N, 5°55'E, believed cruiser and 4 destroyers at 1338. Not bombed owing to absence of cloud. Believed 4 destroyers ROEDER class 53°52'N, 6°7'E, 134° 35 knots course 290°, later attacked in 53°13' 56'N 6°13'E no hits. Attacked later 2 small vessles and 6 patrol boats, no hits (HQ Bomber Cmd. 1926/27). Full reconnaissance patrols were flown.

New Air Search S.10. — Instuted (C-in-C., Rosyth, 1226/27).

Enemy Air Activity. — Enemy a/c's action in Northern Part of North Sea. Estimated course N.W. (D.N.I 1406/27).

Ships, firing at a/c's. — Propose to limit for the present the area in which ships may fire at any a/c by night to North Sea E. of 4°W and English Channel E. of 2° W. (Air Min. 1449/27 to HQFC).

Lighthouses. — Arrangements made by Adty for them to be lit on any part of East and South coasts on request, to serve as navigational aids to a/c's returning from operational missions (Air Min. 1301/27).

Floating balloon Sites. — Adty. 2132/15. Trials are now being carried out. (A.C.O.S. 1803/27).

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Home Fleet.

Extensive air and destroyer A/S search off Orkney area is continueing; latter was cancelled 1322 on account of weather. Home Fleet arrived at Scapa 1120/27.

Northern Patrol.	Orkneys to Faroes Trawlers. Faroes to Iceland 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.C.'s. Denmark Strait 1 " , 1 "
1st A.I. A/S.B. Flotilla.	Holyhead base too far from their patrol areas. Intend to use Douglas, I. of Man as advanced base, Holyhead as main base (C-in-C., W.A. 1311/28).
Western Approaches.	Situation 2000/27 (C-in-C., W.A. 1251/27).
37th A/S group.	To sail for Grimsby forthwith (D.A./S.W. 1359/27).
A.B.F. Patrol.	To be withdrawn now (D.O.D(H) 1449/27). (See 2/4.).
A/S Patrol.	Destroyers on, to return to Scapa (A.C.C.S.1322/27) (on account of weather).
S/M's	0600/28 and movements (V.A.(S) 1617/27, 2052/27 D.C. 1845/27, 2312/27). 10th Flotilla allocated to French S/M's. (Hd. of M. 1837/27).
Patrol craft. Falmouth.	C-in-C., W.A. 2234/15. Arrangements to provide are being made. Will not be available until mid-April. (D.M.S. 1224/27).

D.O.D. (H) 2030/27, 1100/27, 2145/27, C-in-C., H.F. 1407/27, C-in-C., W.A. 2031/27. See Mediterranean.

Operations.

S/M's on Patrol.	UNITY hove to in MBDN 0003. Request bombing restrictions 28/3. (UNITY 2145/27) Bombing restrictions for 28/3. (C-in-C., Rosyth, 2334/27 to UNITY). TRIAD, patrol report 14/3-27/3 (VAS no 40/SM 1052 4/4/40).
Propaganda value of sinkings of iron ore ships.	M.A. Copenhagen reports splendid propaganda effect on Danish public of recent sinkings of German iron ore ships. Danes feel we are taking initiative in North Sea (D.O.D.(H) 1923/27).
S/M's ordered into Bight.	Two S/M's ordered into the Bight consequent on the report from a/c of German surface ships at sea. (V.A.(S) 2052/27 to STERLET, SEAWOLF). 2 KOLN class cruisers 2 destroyers LSRU 5505 course 360° 16 knots at 1327 (R.A.(S) 2035/27 to S/M's on patrol).

War Diary

28. 3. 40.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

BURGOS — Norwegian (3220 tons) in southbound Convoy FS 31 was mined 1325 LSDN 1809 sunk 1400 LSDN 1808 (off Cromer), whole crew and British pilot rescued by PELICAN, 2 slightly injured. For some unexplained reason she was 1½ miles out of the swept channel. (D.C.N.S. 207, C. in C. Nore, 0915/29 PELICAN 1325/28, 1400/28, 1416/28, 1450/28).

Submarines reported

Estimated dispositions Situation obscure. (about 50 miles E. of Kinnairds Head 0749/28 is possibly bound for Moray Firth. Possibly 2 still patrolling to westward of Orkneys and Shetlands. Possibly 1 off Norwegian coast north of 60° N. 1 N.W. of Lands End 1933/27 may be homeward bound through English Channel or via Fastnet (D.D.I.C. 1216/28).

1200 — By aircraft 53:50 N., 3:53 E. heading N. Lost owing to bad weather and rough sea, 54:44 N., 6:20 E. 1235. (H.Q. Bomber Command, 2000/28).

0137 — 54:40 N., 3:40 E. position approx. (I.C. 0403/40).

0749 — 57:40 N. 0:30 W., position approx. (I.C. 0403/40).

1830 — 56:50 N., 6:0 E. Position indefinite. (D.N.I., 1902/28).

1805 — 53:8 N., 1:49 E. Possible enemy trawler sighted by aircraft. TASSIA (see Casualties is anchored near. (C. in C., Nore, 2237/28).

1933 — 50:45 N., 7:0 W. unreliable fix. May be returning up Channel. WILD SWAN and HAVANT to search. Anson aircraft will co-operate. (C. in C., W.A., 1212/28).

War Diary

28. 3. 40.
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

America & West Indies

VANCOUVER — Has finished bunkering in Caracas Bay and is now alongside the ESTE (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1601/28).

South Atlantic

RIO GRANDE — which was intending to sail from Rio Grande do Sul early in January, is again reported to be taking on stores and preparing for sea. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1142/28)(S.O.(I), Freetown, 1740/18).

WINDHUK)
BABITONGA)
DRESDEN)
RIO GRANDE) — All considered auxiliaries, preparing to sail at short notice. A.N.A. Rio reminded Brazilian C.O.S. we had requested internment of last 3 at various dates and as long as they are free we shall maintain close watch (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1729/28).

China

SCHEER — at Macassar since September is reported to be loading cargo and preparing to sail at end of March (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0616/27).

WASGENWALD)
WERDENFELS)
MONI RICKMERS) — Reported from Sabang to have received 5,500 tons of coal and have had orders to sail at end of March or beginning of April (C.O.I.S., Far East, Singapore, 1046/28)

It is reported that German ships at Surabaya, Batavia, Tjilitjap and Padang are repainting and in some cases, painting out their names. (C.O.S. Singapore, 0432Z/28).

REGENSBURG)
ELBE) — Loading sand ballast at Yokohama. Expected to proceed to Kobe. (Capt. D.S. Singapore, 0433Z/28).

ESSEN — Has steam up, but still legal difficulties (N.O.I.C. Port Darwin, 1215Z/28 quoting N.E.I. broadcast).

War Diary

28. 3. 40.
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

THESEUS	(956 tons) arrived Stavanger 27/3 with cargo of galvanized steel pipes and flying German flag (Platt, Stavanger, 1329/28).
FRIGGA	At Narvik loading ore (Gibbs, Narvik, 1134/28).
CHIOS	At Rotterdam has been undocked and is in ballast.
AKKA	Has returned to port and is waiting with steam up. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 2002/28).
APOLLO	Arrived with coal (Gottenburg 1730/28).
MIMI HORN	TRANSYLVANIA on patrol in Denmark Strait at 1100/28 intercepted MIMI HORN (4007 tons) (left Curacoa 5/3). Unable to prevent ship being scuttled and set on fire. Crew of 41 picked up.
20,000 ton liner	At 1710/28 58° N., 5:52 E. steering 180° (R.A.(S) 2326/28 to submarines on patrol.
ANTONIO DELFINO	Sailed southward 0945 (Bernardes, Haugesund 1000/28). V.A.(S) and submarines on patrol informed (D.D.I.C. 1240/28.) Reported likely to leave Haugesund tonight or 29/3.
GODFRIED BEUREN	Now loading Narvik will probably sail tonight.
DERINDJE	Arrived 27/3.
NORDSTERN	Sailed Haugesund 1650/27 Southbound.
NORDWEST	Sailed in cargo Gottenburg 27/3.
	Reported pilots ordered for 35 large German trawlers to leave for Norwegian fjords as soon as Belt passage free for navigation. Trawlers said to be fishing off Andenes (69:19 N. 16:8 E.) since early March and calling at Harstad, Lofoten Is.
	(D.D.I.C. 1132/28 to submarines on patrol etc.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

MEDWAY	Trouble anticipated with Chinese ERA's shipwrights if ordered to sail for Alexandria. (C. in C. China, 0315Z/28).
M/S Duties	C. in C. E.I. 1338/18. Preparation of gunboats for M/S duties at Singapore has been deferred pending Admiralty's decision. (C. in C., China, 1006Z/28).
Policy of disclosing damage to H.M.Ships	Air Ministry signalled names of ships damaged in Scapa raid. Not first time this discrepancy has been observed (C.O.I.S. Far East, 0346Z/28).

East Indies.

Fleet oilers	Situation on station at present (C. in C., E.I., 1111Z/28).

Australia & New Zealand

W/T restrictions	on use of W/T by foreign merchant ships on passage between U.K. ports and outside territorial waters. Asking for information. (D.N.I. Melbourne 0530Z/28).
U.S. Convoys	Your 1856/20. Responsibility of providing adequate escort rests on Admiralty. Under existing conditions only type of raider likely to be met in Tasman Sea is of merchant vessel type, consequently present arrangements are adequate. Not possible to concentrate all the transports in one convoy. Question of adequacy of escorts is continually under consideration (D.O.D. (F) 1227/28 to N.2 Naval Board).

War Diary

28. 3. 40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

HOOD — Position where destroyers to meet her. (F.O.C.N.A., 1222/28).

French positions — F.O.C.N.A., 1130/28, D.C. 2336/28.

South Atlantic

GRAF SPEE mutiny — Re communique issued to Press by Admiralty. Reasons why doubtful whether mutiny really occurred. (Mr. M. Drake, Montevideo, No. 92 EMPAX 28/3).

Mediterranean

ESPANA — Flying Spanish flag, carrying German goods, plying between Italian and Majorca ports. Persistent rumour that German Consulate Palena is virtually her owner. Possible the story is German propaganda designed to illustrate inefficiency of blockade. (Consul Palena, Majorca, 1345/28).

America & West Indies

MAURETANIA — Press message from Christobal Canal Zone 25/3 stated she expected to arrive Christobal before midnight 25/3 and to pass through Canal early 26/3 on way to Australia via Balboa. Please investigate source of message and report whether leakage has occurred. (D.N.I. 1315/28 to N.C.S.O., Colon).

QUEEN MARY — Your 1523/23 suggest extra crew brought by S.S. ANTONIA may have been source of leakage (D.N.I. 1316/28 to N.C.S.O. New York). Reply. Press speculations began with arrival of ANTONIA, but believed due to basic fact of arrival rather than leakage from crew (N.C.S.O., New York, 1757/28).

French positions — BEVEZIERS (submarine) arrived Halifax 28/3 (S.O.(I) Halifax, 0855/28).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

DOMALA	(Attacked by aircraft 2/3) was docked at Southampton 27/3 (D.T.D.).
TASSIA	S.O.S. (N. Foreland Radio intercept 0818) TASSIA 0908/28. Resumed normal working (N. Foreland Radio Recd. 1028/28). In no immediate danger. Anchored 300° LSWY 13. Require tug. (HASTINGS 1225/28) Tug on way (Humber Radio, 1837/28).
VERBANIA	Arrived with tug BRIGAND and escort (N.O.I.C. Stormoway 0925/28) (Drifting in Atlantic without coal).
JOBSHAVEN	Aground near Dunkerque breakwater (JOBSHAVEN, 0934/28).
KASSON	In distress 52:55 N., 2:0 E. Tug GEORGE LEE BARBER sailed Yarmouth 1055/28 (NO.I.C. Yarmouth, 1100/28). Tug BARBER returned. Trawler CAPE MELVILLE reports KAISSON does not require assistance (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 2205/28, 1100/28).
NUBIAN, DIANA, FAME	Damage to asdic gear. (R.A.(D) 1344/28).
LA RAILLEUSE, sunk	French destroyer, sank after explosion in Tangier harbour (? date). Sabotage believed responsible. A few days earlier crew had a brawl with sailors from a British warship. On demand of British Captain 3 French sailors were courtmartialled. On the day of the court martial LA RAILLEUSE was ordered to sea; explosion occurred a few hours earlier (Leipzig Radio, 2315/28).
FIRE DRAKE, ICARUS	Damage when former went alongside latter at Invergordon. ICARUS superficial. FIRE DRAKE seaworthy except in heavy following seas (FIREDRAKE, 0145/28).

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

BLUCHER) KONIGSBERG)	Reported to have left Brunsbuttel for North Sea 0600/21. C.3 (D.D.I.C., 1215/28)
Pocket Battleship	My 1333/24 (see 22/3). Ship referred to was a pocket battleship. B.3. (D.NJ, 1131/28).
Shipping route	Reported in Copenhagen Press that German merchant ships ordered not to cross the Skagerrak by the Skaw as they have been doing, but to proceed inside Norwegian territorial waters, owing to torpedoing of HEDDERNHEIM and E.H. STINNES.
PRINZ EUGEN	According to preliminary information received of photographic reconnaissance today one cruiser of HIPPER class, possibly PRINZ EUGEN, was berthed alongside the Stenbenhoft, Cuxhaven. (I.C. 0404/40).
Force at Sea	Reported that in the early morning 28/3 one large cruiser escorted by at least 6 destroyers and one aircraft were sighted off Kristiansand South steering West at high speed. C.3. Possibly the force sighted 30 miles N.W. of Borhum at 1327/27 may have subsequently proceeded north for a sweep into the Skagerrak. (I.C. 0405/40).
Types of mines	Rumanian M.A. usually reliable states 2 types of magnetic mines being made, bottom and floating, former to be laid by submarine or fast motor boat, latter by aircraft. Mines said to be ineffective after a month or so. (N.A. Stockholm, 1801/28).
LEIPZIG	At Bremen damaged and paid off (N.A., Stockholm, 1801/28).

War Diary

28. 3. 40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

FS, FN, Forecast	C. in C., Rosyth, 2102/28.
French	Positions (D.C., 0330/28).
HN 22	40 ships escorted by 6 destroyers and CAIRO and covered by SHEFFIELD and AURORA is east of Shetlands, 0730.
ON 23	25 ships, is off Kinnaird Head escorted by 4 destroyers and 1 submarine (0730) GALATEA, ARETHUSA to join. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1450/28).
OHN 24	PENELOPE to form part of crew (F.O.C. 2nd C.S. 0945/28).
FN 30	Delayed (AUCKLAND 0504/28). As heavy seas and frequent snow storms make enemy unlikely propose convoy air escort should be ordered to return to base (AUCKLAND 0915/28).
HX 27	Arrived with VANOC (N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1000/28).
HG 24	Sailing telegram (F.O.C.N.A., 1806/28).
Ocean Convoys	D.C. 174/28).
Black List	STOCKHOLM to be put back on list. VIKING to be removed. (Hd. of M. 1605/28).

Miscellaneous

Suspicious Vessel NOORDWIJK	My 1813/9. NOORDWIJK arrived Rosario 27/3. (S.O.(I), Montevideo, 1045/28).

Weather.

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	N.N.W. strong	Good, showers
Horns Reef	N.W. fresh	Moderate, "
Channel	N.W. fresh	Good, fair.
W. Approaches	N. light	Good, fair.

War Diary

28. 3. 40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation F.D. V.A.(S) 1352/28, 2017/28, 1514/29.

Sweeping Reports

BORDE. One German mine swept 276°
Sunk Light Vessel 2.9 miles. (C. in C. Nore, 2338/28).

Harwich, Yarmouth no sweeping, weather (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 1934/28).

COVXF, no sweeping, defects and weather. (COVXF, 1928/28).

Granton, Aberdeen, curtailed. Peterhead, Invergordon nil, weather. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1859/28).

No sweeping. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1858/28).

Curtailed, weather. (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1831/28)

Nil (F.O.I.C., Falmouth, 1830/28).

Nil, weather (F.O., Humber, 1807/28).

Lyness nil, weather. (A.C.O.S., 1805/28).

Nil, weather. (N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1724/28)

? Explosive Cutter

being used on mine moorings by Germans. While sweeping in area in which mines were cut 27/3 MEDWAY QUEEN's sweep parted following explosion not large enough for a mine detonating. (V.A. Dover, 1042/28).

Unexplained explosions

Mine sweeper observed 5 explosions presumably from moored mines in a line roughly 5 miles long 350° from 53:10 N., 1:23 E. 1600 to 1630/27 (F.O. Humber, 1005/28).

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Attack on Convoys ON 23 and HN 22 Continued

No bombs to have been dropped on Convoy ON 23. The Skuas which were with it may have been mistaken for enemy aircraft. One Skua made a forced landing in the sea S.E. of Orkneys 1900. The crew were picked up.
Report of CAIRO (covering Starboard side of HN 22) (CAIRO 1015/29).

Other Air attacks

S/T PRINCESS ROYAL SN 209 — At 2000 bombed and machine gunned 40 miles S.S.W. (mag.) Bressay Light by 2 aircraft detached from formation of 8 then steering W. Leaks caused by near misses. Skipper and 1 crew wounded. Trawler replied with Lewis gun. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1821/29).

S/T INVER-NEIL — At 2000 bombed, superficial damage, 1 wounded. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1821/29). Lewis gun kept aircraft at 1000 ft. (D.C.N.S. 208).

I.S. GROEN — Dutch trawler machine gunned in North Sea No casualties (Press from Amsterdam denied by Transocean Radio 1800/31)

VIKINGBANK — Dutch trawler. 4 bombs dropped near her in North Sea. No casualties. (Press from Amsterdam).

Liaison — Your 1253/3. R.A.F. have arranged for Liaison officer to be appointed to your staff (D. of L.D. 1046/29 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

French Aircraft — Now operating in area E. of 2° E. and surface forces East of 2:30 E. (V.A. Dover, 1736/28).

War Diary

28. 3. 40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity

A Hudson on patrol intercepted 2 Dornier in the middle of the North Sea. One was engaged and seriously damaged. At 1230 fighters shot down a Heinkel off Wick, which had been shadowing and reporting our convoys.
Bomber Command aircraft sighted 2 destroyers and other ships close to the German coast, south of Sylt. Owing to a misunderstanding bombs were not dropped.

Enemy Air Activity

Flare dropped near Convoy FN 30 CPNY 3005 (AUCKLAND 0100/28).
Five large parachute flares in half an hour between N. and E. from 147° LSWY 22 (VALOROUS 0031/28).
Reports of aircraft (A.C. 224 Sqn. 1210/28, OA aircraft 224 1815/28, ESCAPADE 1924/28, Donibristle 1259/28.

Attack on French

The French 11th D.F. was attacked by aircraft north of Ostend at 2015. Three bombs were dropped. No damage.

Attack on Convoys ON 23 and HN 22

3 Blenheims being sent (C. in C. Rosyth, 1230/28) Convoy HN 22 being attacked WPHI 2540 (D.8 1254/28). Convoy being shadowed (KASHMIR 1255/28) SHEFFIELD being shadowed (SHEFFIELD 1259/28).
3 Hudsons leaving Wick 1320 to join HN 22 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1310/28). Aircraft now shadowing (D.8, 1314/28). Fighter aircraft on way to assist convoy ALICE (Rosyth 1316/28) Convoy HN 22 is being attacked (? read by Scapa Base ship 1920/28) One aircraft dropping bombs (Capt (D)8 1925/28). Convoy ON 23 being attacked 335 JSBP 8-5 (JANUS WISTARIA 1956/28). WISTARIA being attacked 000° Kinnaird Hd. (WISTARIA 2000/28). Aircraft made off eastward proceeding with convoy HN 22. (WISTARIA 2030/28). Damage to WISTARIA's steering gear (C. in C. Rosyth, 1821/29). Single aircraft attacked Methil portion of HN 22 dropping 5 bombs. No damage. After dark the aircraft appeared to fire tracer bullets at convoy. Damage unknown (Capt. (D) 8. 2109/28).

(continued)

HOME COMMANDS

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(continued)

War Diary

28. 3. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

Northern Patrol — Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 2 cruisers, 5 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 1 A.M.C.

1st M. A/S. B. Flotilla — C. in C. W.A. L311/28 see 27/3.

A/S Group 28 — Is to be prepared for foreign service. Report date ready for sailing (D.A./S.W. 2135/28). Earliest date 5/4 but recommend date be extended to 7/4 (V.A. Dover 1201/29). To be ready to sail 8/4 a.m. (D.A./S.W. 1942/29).

A/S Group 5 — To be prepared for foreign service. Report when ready to sail (D.A/S. W. 2134/28) Ready 3/4 subject to relief (C. in C.W.A. 1108/29). To be ready am 9/4 (D.A/S.W. 1943/29).

Submarines — Positions 0700/29 and movements (V.A.(S) 1711/28) D.C. 0006/29).

EMERALD)
ENTERPRISE) — With bullion (Hd. of M. 1554/28).
EFFINGHAM)

RESOLUTION — With bullion (Hd. of M. 1553/28).

French Forces — Surface forces now operating in area E. of 2:30 E. (V.A. Dover, 1736/28)

War Diary

29. 3. 40.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships attacked

ORONSAY
? false alarm

S.S.S.S. 40° 31' N., 13° 42' W. (234° Finisterre 242 miles) 0858/29 and 0907/29. DOUGLAS to investigate (F.O.C.N.A. 1057A/29, 1315/29, Portishead Radio 0920/29). DOUGLAS searched from 1750/29 to 0600/30 without result, then left the area owing to shortage of fuel (F.O.C.N.A., 0918/30).

ORONSAY was not heard to transmit but S.S.?S%S. was passed in by U.S. MANHATTAN. Latter has now arrived at Gibraltar and can throw no further light on the matter (F.O.C.N.A. 1104/30).

DOUGLAS found and sunk a large derelict whistle buoy in position where ORONSAY reported a U-boat. Probable this was cause of distress signal (A.S.W.D. 209).

Danish S.S.

Admiral Commanding states submarine nationality unknown fired a shot at a Danish steamer towards dark 29/3 in South Norwegian waters about 10 miles off coast (N.A. Oslo, 1530/30).

Submarines reported

Estimated distribution (D.D.I.C. 1210/29).

0725 — Feather of p/s sighted by aircraft 58°N. 2:3W (356° Kinnairds Head 20 miles) (C. in C., Rosyth, 0914/29).

0300 — 1 submarine (250 tons) 8 minelayers and 1 destroyer reported to have left Ems steering West B.2 (I.C. 0405/40).

1250 — Possible p.c. reported by merchant ship 180° St. Catherines 16 miles (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1956/29).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Mediterranean

ANKARA — Trieste reports (C.2) returned to Trieste recently and has loaded drums of lubricating oil. At midnight 27/3 left harbour in a southerly direction. (S.O.I., Malta, 1335/29).

China

FRIDERUN — At Menedo commenced loading Copra 28/3. Able to proceed at any time, is under restraint but vital parts not removed, B.I. (Capt. I.S. Singapore, 0434Z/29).

Two German ships at Sourabaya have finished loading and one of them, the ESSEN, 5158 tons, has steam up though they cannot legally sail before April 3. Of the 5 German ships lying at Padang one, the SONECK, 2191 tons, is reported to be ready to sail. At Batavia the NORDMARK, 7750 tons, RENDSBURG, 6200 tons, and the VOGTLAND, 6608tons, are the centre of intense activity in the inner harbour. (Reuter, Amsterdam, 29/3).

War Diary

29. 3.40.
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

North Atlantic

ANTARKTIS — Returned to anchorage.

NORD ATLANTIC — Has taken her place alongside BRAKE. All 3 have had engines working, presume some movement of cargo has been going on with BRAKE.

USARAMO,)
LA PLATA)
LECH) — Have moved further out. (Consul Vigo, 1506/29).

Home Commands

Passenger Ship — 20,00 tons sighted by air search JSND 1552 180 (C. in C. Rosyth, 0034/29)

NEUENFELS)
MARTHA HENDRIK FISSER) — Arrived 29/3 (Gibbs, Narvik 1519/29).
FECHENHEIM)

EMSHORN — Now loading ore (do).

FRIGGA)
GOTTFRIED BUREN) — Loaded with ore (do).

Passed to submarines on patrol 0031/30.

HERO — Sailed from here during dark hours (Trondhjem 1300/29).

PITEA — Sailed from Christiansund 0005 with fish transhipped from North (N.C.S.O. Aalsund, 1400/29).

THESEUS — Passed northward 1980 with some cargo (Haugesund 1155/29).

RUSS — Arrived from North (do).

AKKA — Left at 2045 (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, 2242/29).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (continued)

(iii) Also Seaward Local Defence is almost non-existent and must be strengthened well in advance of Italy becoming hostile. (iv) Projected defence of Iranian oil fields is another possible commitment requiring Naval forces perhaps as early as June. (C. in C. E.I. 2026Z/29).

China

MEDWAY — To embark ammunition and torpedo reserves for the 10 submarines from China and E. Indies reserves (D.O.D.(F) 1747/29).

SELENGA
V.MAYAKOVSKI — Handed over near Hong Kong to French Naval authorities for escort and contraband examination at Saigon. The Russian crews refused to sail and were replaced by French sailors. (D.C.N.S. 405).

America & West Indies

Navigation Lights — To be shown at full brilliancy when within 300 miles of East Coasts of Canada, U.S.A. and Newfoundland between Lat. 35° N. and 53° N. (D.T.D. 1637/29).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Suspected Ship
NORSE LAAY

Expected Capetown 31/3 from Batavia, bound for West Indies. Is special examination to be made or action taken. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1133/29).

Routes

Proposed to be used for ships sailing U.K. independently (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1356/29).

GRAF SPEE

Officers reported arrived at Havana (Sir Ogilvie Forks, Havana, No.24, 29/3).

Mediterranean.

WARSPITE

Asking whether she could be spared on understanding she would return to Home Fleet if one of the 4 remaining capital ships was damaged. C. in C. Med. to proceed to Alexandria fairly frequently for inportant conferences with Turks; at present he has only DELHI which cannot accommodate his staff (M.S.L. 0210/29 to C. in C. H.F.).

LAOMEDON
BURGONET
MAGNET

My 1551/8, asking early reply regarding status if required to proceed to Turkish waters (C. in C. Med. 1533/30).

Yugoslavia and Oil Supplies

A.1 report, Yugoslav authorities are stopping all products in transit which are or can be made into aviation benzine or lubricating oil. 32 lighters consigned to Germany and 3 consigned to Hungary now held up at Bezdan. (A.N.A., Budapest, 2358/29).

East Indies

Your 0211/29. (i) My present forces are insufficient to meet this contingency should it arise and at same time give proper protection to shipping and transport against German attack. (ii) When U.S.2 is on passage I shall have only HOBART and one A.M.C. not committed to its escort, since GLOUCESTER is withdrawing to S. Atlantic Station, since if tanker cannot be provided to water QUEEN MARY my other 2 A.M.C's. will have to be used for this.

(continued)

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

HOOD	See Movements.
TETRARCH	Minelaying equipment unsatisfactory (VERNON 1621/29).
NORFOLK	To be paid off and rendered to C. & M. as repairs will take more than 3 months. (Hd. of M. 1937/29).
AJAX	Completes approx. mid July. (A.S.Chatham 1431/29).
B.24 ADELINE	Belgian fishing vessel, missing since months, wreckage washed upon Belgian coast (Transocean 0800/29).
THISTLEBRAE	Engine defect. (N.C.S.O. Trondhjem, 1700/29).

Foreign Stations

NORTHMOOR	28:40 N., 14:14 W. broken tail shaft (Gibraltar W/T 1340/29, Las Palmas, 1000/30).
TROCAS	Tanker, 9790, broken down S.E. of Cicily 29/3, crankshaft broken. In tow H.M.S. for Malta. (Casualty Section, No.25, 3/4).

War Diary

29. 3. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Force at Sea

8 minelayers, 1 destroyer and 1-250 ton submarine were reported to have left Ems steering West at 0300/29. A.2. (N.A. Hague, 1915/29, D.C. 2331/29) (B.2 I.C. 0405/40).

Asking for description of the minelayers (D.D.I.C. 1115/30). Reply: Converted trawlers (N.A. Hague, 1310/30, D.D.I.C., 1758/30 to V.A. (S) etc.).

Asking for further details of the minelayers (D.N.I. 1235/31). Probably minesweepers rather than minelayers (I.C. 0406/40).

Trawler

Flying German flag passed south bound 1330/29 (Cumming, Tromsoe, 1356/29).

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

Danish patrols — Only Danish warship off west coast Jutland is BESKYTTEREN. Only proceeds to sea occasionally as fishery protection vessel. All Danish fishing vessels have colours prominently displayed. (D.O.D.(H) 1847/29)

Strike of Shipwrights — At Milford Haven. Continuance will seriously delay completion of trawlers being fitted out as minesweepers and boom defence vessels. (F.O.I.C., Milford Haven, 1750/29)

Suspicious Ship VREDE — Reported in Evening Standard 30/3 (400 tons) placed under arrest by Dutch authorities on suspician of unneutral conduct. VREDE arrived Amsterdam about 29/3 from Caen. N.C.S.O. Rotterdam, reported 1500/19 suspicious behaviour of Dutch VERDE, probably same vessel, near West Hinder buoy. Please investigate (D.N.I. 1236/31 to N.A. Hague). See 1/4.

Weather

0500	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Variable, light	Good	Becoming S. or S.W.
Channel	S. light	Good	Freshening
W. Approaches	S. fresh	Good	S. or S.W. gale
Horns Reef	N.W. light	Very good	Wind backing

Enemy Intelligence

Polish ships seized — By Germans at Gdynia. Following are believed to have been seized: ROBUR VII (820 tons) (bunkering ship), PROGRESS I (510 tons)(depot ship), SKARBOFERME, (592 tons) (depot ship), TORUN (2018 tons), GDANSK (547 tons), Gdynia (586 tons), TCZEW (760 tons) (Lloyds 29/3).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Mine exploded — Explosion, apparently magnetic mine, 1½ miles 093° from 244 BFDN 20 when WOOLSTON fired d/cs at a contact subsequently proved non-sub. (WOOLSTON, 1222/29).

Shipping

Downs-Flushing route — Sweeping continues on this route and deep draught traffic on it is still held up.

Submarines stopping ships — French want more definite instructions regarding treatment of merchant ships than is given in S.W.M. their Proposals. 1. If she refuses to obey signal to stop A. Fire shot across bows, B. over bridge, C. into non-vital spot, D. If still refuses sink with H.E. 2. Under no other conditions may neutral ship be sunk unless she opens fire on a submarine. 3. An enemy merchant ship who obeys all orders cannot be sunk unless safety of crew can be ensured. I have approved (V.A.S. 2057/29).

Convoys

Ocean Convoys — D.C. 1901/29.

Code words — HN 23A Alice one, HN 23B Alice Two (C. in C., Rosyth, 1246/29).

ON 23 — Is late. Will arrive Point E. 0900/31. (D.T.D. 1151/29).

HN 23A, B — No change in times of departure but escorts are exchanged (do)

HX 21 — Sailing telegram (Capt. D'kyd. Halifax, 1215/29).

War Diary

29. 3. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Dutch Prohibited Area.

Off Schouwen is modified, western boundary 3:39:5 E. instead of 3:38 E. (Norwegian broadcast).

Mines in Belt

Large number of mines reported floating in Great Belt (I.C. 0404/40).

Mines to be laid off Norway. Operation WILFRED

It has been decided to lay mines off certain places on Norwegian coast, to force traffic outside the limits of Norwegian territorial waters. Areas selected are Stadlandet, Bud, West Fjord. All these areas will be notified as dangerous at same time, but mines will only be laid off Stadlandet and in West Fjord in first instance. Ships to be used. Date of operation 5/4 for both places. Details of areas to be notified as dangerous. Plan of operations, C. in C. H.F. to conduct the operation. Laying of mines is to proceed even if Norwegian warships are present. If latter take hostile action minimum amount of force necessary to prevent interferenee with minelaying is to be used. (1st S.L. 0008/29 to C. in C. H.F.).

Admiralty 0008/29. Do you wish German ships warned by patrol of mined areas, I suggest not as they will turn back in territorial waters, wait till nightfall, proceed into open sea and escape. (C. in C. H.F., 2351/29).

Operation F.D.I.

NARWHAL's movements (C. in C. Rosyth, 1629/29)

Sweeping Reports

One mine cut 264° T. buoy 4 miles (V.A.Dover 2124/29).
One mine cut 144° Humber Lt. V. 3.1 miles (F.O. Humber, 2139/29).
One mine, suspected magnetic, exploded by sweep 150° sunk Lt. V. one mile (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 2048/29).
Lyness weather unfavourable (A.C.O.S.1800/29)
M/C drifters sweeping nil weather (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1755/29).
3 mines exploded by D.W.I. 29/3 S. 056° 4.15 miles 057° 4.15 miles and 057° 5.25 miles Tongue Lt. V. (C. in C. Nore, 1626/29).
29/3 One magnetic mine exploded 5 cables 315° from 57B buoy. (C. in C., Nore, 1748/30).

War Diary

29.3.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Attacks

Convoy 1950 FN 31 25 ships	Convoy being attacked 332 B.F.Zs. 28 (FLAMINGO 1950/29) 10 miles.north of Scarborough. 2 bombs dropped amongst leading ships of convoy, not hits. Aircraft driven off to Eastward. FLAMINGO hit by machine gun fire no casualties (FLAMINGO 2040/29) Brief report of engagement (CAIRO 1015/29). One aircraft bombed convoy. No apparent result (HASTINGS 2100/29). AUCKLAND's account (C. in C. Rosyth, 1753/30) WALLACE fired one round of 4-in. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1234/30).
EAST ANGLIAN	2008 British (870 tons). Attacked 15 miles S.E. Flamborough. (I.C. 0405/40, Humber Radio 2000/29).
Convoy T.M.35 (15 ships)	2026. Bombed by aircraft 18 miles N. by E. River Tyne. No damage (I.C. 0405/40)
Reports	of enemy air activity to be passed to submarines on patrol as soon as possible (V.A.(S) 1544/29, C. in C., Rosyth, 1020/30). of enemy or unidentified aircraft to shore authorities by H.M.Ships and F.A.A. aircraft, revised procedure (Admiralty 2001/29).
Patrols recalled	All patrols being recalled owing to weather. Aircraft remaining with convoys for present. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0942/29).
Protection of Scandinavian Convoy	Requesting the convoy be routed as close to Shetlands, Orkneys and Kinnaird Head as practicable, to enable fighter support to be given (Air Min. 1545/29). These arrangements are already in force (D.O.D.(H) 1131/30).

War Diary

29. 3. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Submarines — 0700/30 and movements (D.C. 2025/29, V.A.(S) 1739/29. Later programmes, (R.A.(S) 1849/29).

UNITY — Land Dutchmen (PROTINUS survivors) at Rosyth etc. (Capt.(S) 6 0016/29) (All were stretcher cases).

REDSTONE — Blockship. Required at Scapa 8/4 without fail (A.C.O.S. 1256/29).

WOLBOROUGH — To be prepared for foreign service (V.A. Dover, 1202/29).

Operations

Operations on Line D.U. — To be carried out at more frequent intervals provided destroyers available.
Areas: E. limit 9° E., south limit 57° N., north limit 58:26 N. Would 20 hours notice be sufficient to get submarines clear? (C. in C. H.F. 2250/29 to R.A.(S) Concur but would prefer southern limit to be 57:10 N. when West of 6:30 E. Reasons. (R.A.(S) 1142/30).

Air.

Enemy Air activity — Expected on East coast (Capt (S)2 2015/29 to submarines near East Coast).
Asking that such signals may be passed to submarines on patrol as early as possible (V.A.S. 1544/29).
Enemy aircraft active in North sea (D.D.I.C. 0920/29) Enemy aircraft near you (C. in C. Rosyth 1934/29 to AUCKLAND, BRAZEN, HASTINGS).
One aircraft crashed in sea. No survivors or wreckage found. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2327/29).
Later. Wreckage was found and attempt made to salvage it.

War Diary

29.3.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

Redistribution — Following redistributions to take place as soon as practicable. A. 7th D.F. to remain under C. in C. H.F. who is in future to provide all escorts for Scandinavian Convoys. B. 5 ships now running in 12th D.F. to be exchanged for 5 V's and W's from Western Approaches and this force, with BOREAS and BRASEN to be placed under F.O.C.O.S for A/S work in Moray Firth and Orkneys area. C. DUNAN and ECHO on completion to join C. in C. W.A. relieving one leader and one destroyer to join F.O.C.O.S. D. GRIFFIN and GALLANT to rejoin Capt. D.I under C. in C., Nore. E. (This was post-poned by 1st S.L. 1037/30) 2nd C.S. proceed to Humber and be based there. Will normally operate under C. in C. Nore for protection of East coast, but may be placed at disposal of C. in C. H.F. for specific operations (1st S.L. 2237/29) see 30/3 also.

Northern Patrol — Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 3 cruisers, 7 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait - 1 cruiser, 2 A.M.C's.

Clyde — Requirements for Patrols in Clyde Area (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1132/29).

Humber Force — Orders in M. 0843/39 of 31/8/39 are cancelled (D.O.D.(H) 2303/29).

HOOD — To retube condensers at Devonport instead of Malta, owing to political situation. Can be taken in hand now (D.O.D.(H), 1505/29) sailed from Clyde 0345/30 escorted by 3 destroyers.

Patrol by 19th A/S. F. — 14 day patrol commencing 30/3 in area limited by 5° W., Long. and Lat. of North Rona, and 60° W. (A.C.O.S. 1656/29).

TRITON — sailed with despatch ~~from~~ pm/29 for patrol (area given) (Capt. (S)2 2139/29).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked.

M/S SUTTON See mining.

Estimated distribution

One in Moray Firth, probable patrol in Skagerrak, no indication yet that U-boat in middle of North Sea has moved, no confirmation of possible U-boat off Portugal (D.D.I.C. 1248/30).

Submarines reported

Submarines Attacked

1912 ROSEMARY investigated doubtful contact, 49:28:30 N., 03:58 W. Classified non-submarine after dropping two single charges. Rejoined convoy. (ROSEMARY, 1912/30, 1933/30).

War Diary

30. 3. 40.
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Mediterranean

ANKARA	Split reports she arrived Dubrovink 29/3 and is loading 4000 tons bauxite for Trieste consigned Guiline. Estimated time of loading 1 or 2 days. Al. (S.O.(I) Malta 1957/30).
ARKADIA	Is trading in Marmara (DRAGON 1830/30).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

China (continued)

LINDENFELS WASGENWALD WERDENFELS MONI RICKMERS SOPHIE RICKMERS	Air sighting reports (in harbour) (C.O.I.S. Far East 1201Z/30).

America & West Indies

ALEMANIA PATRICIA CARIBIA	Curacao reports embargo likely to be removed as debt owing to shell oil co. is being paid off. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1523/30).
HENRY HORN FRIEDENAU PATRICIA ALEMANIA	Description (S.O.(I) Kingston, 2115/30).
ANTILLA	No guard on board but about 8 in guard house 1 mile S. of lighthouse (do).
	German ships are reported to be sailing from Talcahuano (Chile) 30/3 or 31/3 (S.O. Callao 1125/30) (Passed to DIOMEDE and RAJPUTANA)
COLUMBUS	San Francisco reports unrest among German seamen ex COLUMBUS now on Angel Island who do not wish to return to Germany. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1302/30).

South Atlantic

DRESDEN at Valparaiso BABITONGA at Santos RIO GRANDE at Rio Grande do Sul	2000 tons of diesel oil imports from Montevideo have been traced on board. (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1129/30).

War Diary

30. 3. 40.
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

IMATRA — 990 tons lying Christiansand South and preparing to leave. Destination rumoured Narvik. (V.C. Kristiansand 1200/30).

GAUSS — Arrived with general cargo (Gottenburg 1330/30).

NEUENFELS)
MARTHA HENDRIK)
FISSER) — Arrived Narvik 29/3.
FECHENHEIM)

EMSHORN — Loading

FRIGGA) — Departure loaded with ore.
GODFRIED BUEREN)

(D.C. 0031/30 to submarines on patrol etc).

OSTPREUSSEN — Now afloat and is due at Copenhagen am/30 (D.D.I.C. 1011/30 to V.A.(S), C. in C., H.F. etc.) (see 24/3).

ASIEN — Now loading ore. (Narvik, 1240 /30).

EMSHORN — Left loaded with ore (do) (D.N.I. 2104/30 to submarines on patrol etc.)

China

Report from Batavia stated Dutch Courts are accepting Bank Guarantee and ships will be free to sail by 1/4. There is evidence to show that the SOPHIE RICKMERS, 7,033 tons, had less than 200 tons of coal on board at the end of January, of a quality which would require about 40 tons a day to give her ten knots. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1311/30, 0311Z/30).

It is believed in Surabaya that German ships in that port are likely to make for the Jilolo and Molucca passages as they are asking for charts of that area which is between the Celebes and Dutch New Guinea. (C.O.I.S. 1205Z/30).
SONECK unloading at Padang (Cable intercept).

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (continued)

Russian Submarines — and German base in Possiet Bay and Hainan. Rumours. If N.L.O. Shanghai 0951/10/1 and my 0511/29/12/39 (C. in C., China, 0246Z/30).

N.E.I. ports, patrol. — C. in C., Med. 1733/9, 1921/12, C. in C., China, 0501/18, 1025/23. In order to maintain continuous patrol off N.E.I. ports it will be necessary to employ CERES and COLOMBO to relieve "D" class cruisers and FALMOUTH perhaps for a few weeks. Proposed arrangements (R.A. Malaya 0401Z/30).

Australia & New Zealand

Transport X6 — Left Sydney 0600Z/29 for Wellington. Expected time of arrival 2230Z/31. (Australian C'wealth N.B. 0350Z/30).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Positions 1300/30 (D.C. 0047/30).

BURNEJNSSEN Dutch. Your 1908/29. Expected to arrive here early 31/3 and to leave for Lisbon same day. (Consul, Funchal 1645/30).

Convoy Positions (D.C., 1853/30).

South Atlantic

Whale oil Carrier CORONDA to be sent to Gib. for convoy on account of slow speed (C. in C. S.A., 1602/30).

ANSHUN (Govt. charter. 3188 tons, Freetown 17/3) Not yet arrived simonstown (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1208/30).

German Oil Supplies Your 1824/26, report is probably out of date, see my 0959/19. 2000 tons diesel oil imported Jan. and Feb. traced on board German ships RIO GRANDE at Rio Grande do Sul and DRESDEN and BABITONGA at Santos. No consignment this route since. (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1129/30).

Mediterranean

WARSPITE To sail for Mediterranean when convenient (1st S.L. 0137/30).

Merchantmen Coaling British merchant ships calling at Algiers, Oran, Bona can be supplied with bunker coal so long as stocks available. Re my 1821/19 (S.O.(I) Malta 1331/30).

China

NORBRYN copper for Germany Norwegian cargo 3000 tons copper, 2000 tons brass in transit to Leningrad suspected destination Germany. Intercept out of sight of land to Eastward of Japan, no Japanese ship or aircraft witness (D.E.D.D. 0007/30).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

FREDERICK	Dutch 363 tons went ashore off Whitby. Refloated. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1045/30).
WESSEX	Completion delayed by strike of shipwrights (N.O.I.C., Cardiff, 1041/30).
HAPPY RETURN	Motor fishing vessel must be considered lost, probably foundered in gale last night (V.A., Dover, 1755/30).
M/S SUTTON	See Mining.
WALSINGHAM	Abandoned after collision with LOM (Norwegian) in Knock Deep in Convoy GS 17. Appears salvageable. Crew are in H.M.S. GOLDEN EAGLE (PELICAN 1710/30, 2800/30) Sank 1535/31 (Admiralty, Salvage Officer 2040/31) (N. Foreland Radio, 1535/31).

America & West Indies

S.S. KING EDWARD	Which sailed from Halifax, Nova Scotia 25/3 in convoy was disabled at 0430/30 in 43:28 N., 43:21 W. PORT HARDY standing by, (R.A. 3 B.S. 2311/30) Greek ship DIMITRIOS INGLESSES collided with KING EDWARD, and had slight damage forward. Steering gear breakdown apparently caused accident. Tug left Halifax 0400/1 G.M.T. (Capt. H.M.D.Y., Halifax, 0710/1).
ABBEY DALE) ORANGELEAF)	Fire at Bermuda, see 31/3.

War Diary

30. 3. 40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

ON 23	25 ships, escorted by 6 destroyers, 1 submarine, 2 cruisers and an A/A cruiser is N.E. of Shetlands.
HG 23	Arrived (N.O.I.C., Liverpool 0615/30, N.C.S.O., Ramsgate 1145/30).
OB 122	Cancelled (Capt. D. Liverpool, 1656/30).
HN 23A,B	(Two portions of HN 23) A escorted by 5 destroyers sailed 1900/30, B to sail 0700/31 with ships which escorted ON 23 (see 29/3).
HN 22	Arrived 1230/30 (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1256/30)
SL 27	Ocean route (D.T.D. 1647/30).
SL 26	Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 0938/30) There will be no convoy SLF 26 (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1811/30).

Continental Traffic released — Traffic to be released to follow M/S 5 which will commence sweep as soon as weather suitable. To commence 1430. In event of a mine being cut traffic is to return to Downs or Continental Ports. (V.A. Dover, 1134/30, 1346/30, 1407/30, 1432/30).

My 1753/20. (Re hold up of traffic bound east from Downs which cannot be routed by Dunkirk and Zuydcote Pass) Traffic may now be released (C. in C., Nore, 1511/20).

Convoy Signals — F.O.C.N.A., 1312/29. Undesirable to break W/T silence unless necessary. Procedure in force. (D.T.D., 1318/30).

BRAVORE — Norwegian. Position and course wanted. Left Boulogne 23/3, passed Dover 29/3 for Dunkerque (D.N.I. 1835/30).

War Diary

30. 3. 40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

Fleet Tenders A.B.C. — Unsuitable to lie at anchor in ordinary British weather. Recommendation as to their disposal (C. in C. H.F. 1050/30).

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	W. fresh to gale	Poor
Horns Reef	S. moderate	Moderate
Channel & W. Approaches	W. moderate	Moderate

Outlook - Weather improving for short period.

Enemy Intelligence

Force at sea — A large cruiser, one aircraft and at least 6 destroyers were reported off Kristiansand South, steering West at high speed, early morning 28/3.
C.3 (D.D.I.C. 1156/30).

War Diary

30. 3. 40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Bombing Restrictions — for 31/3 (C. in C., Rosyth, 1629/29, D.C. 1108/30).

Protection of Scandinavian Convoys — When situation permits H.Q.F.C.A. to provide for this convoy when in range standing patrol by day of 2 aircraft from F.A.A. Skuas Hatston (H.Q.F.C.A., 1825/30).

British Air Activity — Normal patrols were flown over North Sea with exception of neconnaissance online Buchan Ness - Orkneys to Norwegian coast and the cross over patrol west of Lister which were cancelled by bad weather.

9 Blenheims from Bomber command carried out an anti-Flakship operation off Horns Reef and sighted a number of minor warships. Only one of these ships opened fire on our aircraft and bombs were dropped without result (H.Q.B.C. 2250/30).

Mining

Operations Wilfred — My 2237/29 para E. Retain 2nd C.S. with you for the present (1st S.L. 1037/30).

Sweeping Reports — Weather unsuitable for MG sweepers (F.O., Humber, 1900/30).
Nil (Cdr. I.C. Sheerness 1742/30, F.O.I.C. Peterhead, 1720/30.

SUTTON damaged — M/S SUTTON (4th M/S F) working from Grimsby at 2010 exploded a mine under her stern off Cromer Knoll. Steering gear put out of action and after compartments flooded. No immediate danger. Returned to Immingham. (SUTTON, 2010/30).

Magnetic mine was exploded in 53:8.6 N., 1:23.5 E. close to JEVINGTON COURT and CLAN MORRISON (I.C. 0406/40). (Note: Probably indentical with magnetic mine reported in C. in C., Nore's 1748/30 see 29/3).

30. 3. 40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet — My 2237/29 para E. Retain 2nd C.S. with you for the present (1st S.L. 1037/30 to C. in C. H.F.).

WARSPITE — To sail for Mediterranean when convenient (1st S.L. 0137/30 to C. in C. H.F.). Can be spared (Reply to Adty 0210/29). (C. in C. H.F. 1112/29).

R.A.C. 18th C.S. — R-Admiral Clarke not to hoist flag in SOUTHAMPTON until 21/4 (C.S. 18, 1230/30) .

Redistribution 12th D.F. — My 2237/29. B. Exchanged 12th D.F. with ships from W.A. is not to take place for the present (D.O.D.(H) 1759/30) if C. in C. W.A. 1810/30).

Scapa Fleet Tenders — Tenders A,B & C unsuitable for work at Scapa. Suggest using them as blockships in eastern entrances, or one as a coal hulk. (Co. C.H.F. 1050/30).

Submarines — Positions 0600/31 and movements (R.A.(S) 1549/30, (D.C., 1837/30).

Operations

Danish steamer fired at. — Towards dark 29/3 by submarine nationality unknown in South Norwegian (waters) about 10 miles off coast (N.A. Oslo, 1530/30).

Operation against German shipping — Desired to stage an operation against German merchant shipping on Norwegian coast using captured trawler HERRLICHRETT as an auxiliary. Essential that her German characteristics should not be altered. Can she be made available? (C. in C. H.F. 2132/30). Reply. HERRLICHKETT is undergoing trials with view to making her efficient for such an operation. Should she be fitted with asdics? (D.O.D.(H) 1332/31).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Estimated disposition. No reports from which deductions can be made (D.D.I.C. 1159/31).

Submarines reported.

1840 Enemy S/M 49° 50' N., 6° W., A GH 19 LE (French report, 1840/31).

North Atlantic.

1330 1 S/M submerged, bearing, distance, course unknown (Gib W/T 1529/31).

0825 S/M submerged, position 36° 03' N., 07° 08' W. (Casablanca, 0923/31).

1430 2 reliable reports from French torpedo craft indicate U-boat in 35° 50' N., 07° 15' W. French and British vessels and aircraft searching.

Submarines attacked.

2320 My Yacht RHODORA, 030° Bull Point 9 miles. 2 A/S Trawlers near (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0108/1) (A/S N.D. 210).

War Diary. 31. 3. 40.
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands.

ASIEN	Left Narvik 31/3 (D.D.I.C.1735/31)(Gibbs, Narvik 1103/31).
FECHENHEIM	Now loading at Narvik (do) (Gibbs, Narvik 1103/31).
FRIELINGHAUS	Arrived Narvik 31/3 (do) (Gibbs, Narvik 1103/31).
CHARLOTTE CORDS.	Arrived Rotterdam 31/3, probably sailing evening 1/4 (D.D.I.C. 1749/31)(N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1437/31).

North Atlantic.

EULER MELILLA KLIO	At Gijon, expected to sail very soon (I.C.0406/40

War Diary. 31. 3. 40.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Re Reports. OTUS, OLYMPUS, ROVER, REGULUS, REGENT (C.in C. China 0502Z/31).

GRAMPUS
RORQUAL — Not to take mine outfits before leaving Singapore (for Med.)(C.in C. China 0130Z/31,C.in C. Med. 1137/31)(D.O.D.(F) 1312/31).

U-boats for Vladivostock. Admiralty 1759/31 report of U-boats being sent to Vladivostock. Matter being investigated immediately (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 2246/31).

Australia.

German Ships. Interception. Indications that German ships in Dutch East Indies ports will break out shortly. Important to intercept, and would be a great help if CERES and COLOMBO could act under orders of C.in C., China, for about 3 weeks after their arrival at Singapore (D.O.D.(F)0038/31). A.C.N.B. concur. Cabinet concurrence being sought (Australian N.B., 1013Z/31).

America and West Indies.

St. Lawrence Navigation. In view of opening of St. Lawrence, proposed area prohibited to westbound traffic to minimize danger of collision with convoy. (N.S. H.Q. Ottawa, 1211/31).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CRYNSSEN — N.C.S.O. Funchal D805/31 see Stupping.

French Positions — 1200/1 (D.C.2351/31).

French Convoys — (D.C. 0331/31).

South Atlantic.

Whale oil carriers. — TERJEVIKEN arrived Cape Town 30/3 (S.O.C1)Cape Town 0858/31). Routes &c. of 20 to leave South Georgia for U.K. (D.T.D. 1722/31)

St. PAULS ROCK ? refuelling base. — off coast of Brazil. Reported it was being stocked with oil last year. Stated a main S. American Air Service was making use of St. Pauls Rock as refuelling base at that time; last June German ships seen entering and having small bay at southernmost point of Gulf of Darren 8° 10' N 77° W. approx. which has good anchorage and is in uninhabitated locality. (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1721/31).

Whale Catchers Requisitioned. — 20 whale catchers owned by Messrs. Selvesen have sailed from South Georgia for Freetown and will be requesitioned on arrival in U.K. (D.T.D., to Consuls, Pernambuco, Bahia & Rio, 1722/31).

Mediterranean.

Sabotage. — Insufficient attention being paid to anti-sabotage watch in harbour by masters of British merchant ships. Submit matter be re-emphasised. (C.in C., Med., 1101/31).

APHIS and LADYBIRD — At your discretion to fit them for minesweeping from station resources. (D.O.D(F) to C.in C., Med. 1314/31).

Destroyers. — Your 1750/29. South Atlantic destroyers will not be required for escort in Mediterranean. (C.in C., Med., to C.in C., S.A., 1203/31).

War Diary. 31. 3. 40.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

HASTY	Damaged when berthing in gale and is unseaworthy (FEARLESS 2345/31) Damage to side plating and framing. Will not require docking (D.A.D.0014/2)
SAPHOS	Trawler. Disabled west of Fair I.(Wick Radio 1002/31, ? COSSACK 1139/31) Trawler NORTHERN PRINCESS arrived in tow. (COSSACK 1414/31)Report of Salvage (V.A.N.P. 2335/3).
AUSMA	Aground near Eierland. 5 men saved (N.Foreland 1223/31 intercept 1122; 1244/31 intercept 1138).
ARGOLIKIS	Intercept 1126 addressed Dunkerque, both anchors cut, immediate assistance. (N. Foreland,No.800/31
GIPSY	(Destroyer, wreck). Further lift and vessel taken further on the shelf into 10 ft. low water soundings. (Comdr. Doust, 1800/31).
NYDALEN	Norwegian, 625 tons, ran aground on Isle of Coll. Feared total loss (Exchange Telegraph).

East Indies.

ROSLIN CASTLE	Ashore since about 2202Z in Perim Small Straits. CORNWALLIS standing by and salvage by PROTECTOR proceeding from ADEN. (C.in C.ME 0105Z/1). No immediate danger, no lives lost (CORNWALLIS 0305/1) PROTECTOR time of arrival (C.in C.E.I. 0711Z/1).

America and West Indies.

ABBEY DALE ORANGELEAF	Fire occurred in oiler ABBEY DALE 30/3 involving oiler ORANGELEAF as ships were alongside.Damage not extensive. (Capt i/c Bermuda, 1133/31).

War Diary. 31. 3. 40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Scapa Defences. Progress Report (R.A.Scapa 1349/31).

		Killed	Wounded	Missing
Casualties - Personnel to end of March.	Officers	188	34	13
	Men	2735	252	84

Weather.

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea North	S.S.W. gale	Moderate.
North Sea South	S.S.W. moderate	Moderate coast mist.
Horns Reef	S. light	Moderate.
Channel	S.W. moderate	Moderate.
W. Approaches	S.W. strong to gale	Moderate.

Outlook. Wind freshening in South.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued).

BROTTNINGHOLM (Swedish) — If possible mails to be removed at sea (D.E.W.D. 1829/31).

CRYNSSEN (Dutch) — Admiralty 1908/29. Arrived 0800 G.M.T. Probably sailing 1200 G.M.T. 31/3 (N.C.S.O. Funchal 0805/31) Sailed 1215 G.M.T. for Lisbon (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1120/31).

Heavy Draught Ships. Cancel my 2207/30. Heavy draught ships are to be held until further orders (D.T.D. 1603/31).

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Positions (D.C.1755/31).

HN 23	Is in 2 portions. HN 23A (40 ships) escorted by 5 destroyers sailed 1900/30. HN 23B (36 ships) sailed 1900/31 N.C.S.O. Bergen 1131/31 with ships which escorted ON 23 (see 29/3) HN 23A was partly scattered by gale to day.
ON 23	25 ships arrived off Norwegian coast 0700/31.
SL 26	Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 0938/30).
Military.	Crossing from Southampton 6/4 - 5/5 (C.in C., Portsmouth 1817/31).
ON 24	Sailed from Methil 1200/31 19 ships for Point E. (C.in C., Rosyth 1319/31).
SL 24	Arrived (N.O.i/c Liverpool 1645/31).
SL 27, SLF 27.	Your 1647/30. ? R.V. incorrect (.N.C.S.O.Freetown 1000/31).
Favouritism of Germans by Norway.	FECHENHEIM arrived March 29 proceeded along side 30/3 while 10 British ships are anchored, all of which arrived before her. NVOLJA (Swedish arrived 30/3 proceeded along side immediately, both now loading ore. Submit Malen export be asked to explain system of rotation of loading (Narvik 1232/31) (Section 1 Essays there is nothing in this).
Continental Traffic.	Cancel my 2207/30. Heavy draughtships are to be held until further orders (D.T.D.1603/31 to Antwerp, Amsterdam, Rotterdam).
Delay.	Ships are being greatly delayed at Dunkirk (N.C.S.O. Antwerp 1654/31) Reply Admiralty 2001/18 is still in force (D.T.D.2321/31).
POLAR PRINCE Tr.	Arrested by NARWHAL 55° 56' N. 1° 29' W. (NARWHAL 1050/31)(in Econst Mine barrier)(C.in C. Rosyth, 1231/31, 1725/31).

HOME COMMANDS.

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HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity — 2 ships and 8 shore batteries at Scapa opened fire 0834 at 4 enemy aircraft apparently on reconnaissance flight (A.C.O.S. 1134/31) (Fighters were sent up, without result. No bombs were dropped). Probable that no more than 3 and possibly only 1 reconnaissance aircraft was concerned. (A.C.O.S. 1820/1).

MIRA — Norwegian, 72 passengers, 35 crew. Left Tyne 0400 for Norway. Bombed 0845 by aircraft. No hits. Entered an E. coast port. See 2/4 (Press)

British Air Activity — All air searches now being abandoned on account of weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 0826/31)

Air Wreckage — Wreck of German aircraft located in 55° 14' N., 1° 32' W. Request investigate possibility of salvage. (C. in C. Rosyth 1020/31 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Mining

Sweeping reports: — 10 mines, positions (V.A.Dover 1932/31) (Traffic in the N. Foreland - Holland route was stopped. One British mine swept up and exploded (F.O.i/c Harwich 1920/31).
M/S sweep, weather unsuitable (F.O. Humber 1906/31).
P.M.S. weatherbound (F.O.i/c Greenock 1902/31)
Aberdeen, Peterhead, nil, weather; Granton sweeping curtailed (C. in C. Rosyth 1857/31).
Nil. (Cdre. i/c Sheerness 1844/31).
One German "Y" type mine cut 133° R. buoy 3.5 miles after sweep had been cut by small explosion (V.A.Dover 1600/31). 5 German mines cut. Positions (V.A.Dover 1555/31).
Mine detonated in MEDWAY QUEEN's sweep, SAN DOWN's sweep cut in same position by small explosion (V.A.Dover 1355/31) (Note:- This and the 5 mines in next previous report are probably included in the 10 in V.A.Dover's 1932/31).
Mine swept up during search of Channel (F.O.i/c Harwich 1020/31). Was British; amended position 51° 33' N., 2° 18½' E. (F.O.i/c Harwich 1100/1).

Dummy Minefield — Laid by NARWHAL in East Coast Barrier. Arrested POLAR PRINCE found fishing in forbidden area, see Shipping.

War Diary

31. 3. 40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

DEVONSHIRE, YORK, BERWICK to arrive Rosyth 3/4 (C. in C.H.F. 1230/31). 2nd C.S. Dispositions. AURORA to Clyde by 5/4. PENELOPE to Scapa arriving 7/4, 18th C.S. cruiser to relieve her on present duty for this purpose. GALATEA, ARETHUSA to be available as striking force at Rosyth 3/4 (C. in C.H.F. 1233/31).
18th C.S. Dispositions. One cruiser to Rosyth 3/4. BIRMINGHAM continue with operations D.V. Remaining 3 cruisers provide cover for OHN Convoy, 2 ships at a time. These 3 ships to be available as a striking force from Scapa. All ships to be withdrawn from Northern Patrol as and when required. (C. in C. H.F. 1235/31, F.O. 18th C.S. 1702/3, 1732/31.)
HOOD arrived Plymouth to refit.

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 3 cruisers, 7 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait - 1 " 12 "

The patrol between Faroes and Iceland has made one of its periodic changes in its area of operations and is working 180 miles to eastward of its previous patrol lines.

Submarines

Positions 0600/1/4 and movements (R.A.(S) 1941/31, D.C. 1854/31, V.A.(S) 1604/31).
French submarines may be met near positions Y and Z. They are very similar both in colour and silhouette to U-boats. (C. in C. Rosyth 1309/31).

Patrol

by Harwich destroyers (C. in C. Nore 1426/31)

A/S Striking Forces

state of, at 1900/31 (A.C.O.S. 1930/31).

Operations.

Operation D.V.

(operation against enemy fishing fleets).
BIRMINGHAM, HOSTILE, HASTY to sail for operation p.m. 31/3. (C. in C.H.F. 1530/31, F.O.C.O.S. 1801/31, BIRMINGHAM 1741/31). FEARLESS to replace HASTY, latter damaged (FEARLESS 2345/31, R.A.(D) H.F. 0606/1).

War Diary 1. 4. 40.

Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships attacked Estimated distribution.
Still no reliable reports from which deductions can be made (D.D.I.C. 1257/1)

S/ms. Reported

1500 Unknown s/m reported by SS. ROYAL EMBLEM in 43° 30' N., 18° 00' W. (D.C. 2022/1) (C. in C.W.A. 1530/1)

1942 D.F. probable U-boat in approx. 58° 30' N., 1° 00' W. unreliable fix. (D.C. 2008/1, 2050/1)

2011 U-boat possibly damaged reported 59° 30' N., 0° 30' W., 95° Fair Is. 34' (I.C. 0408/40). Capt. (D)3 to organise search (R.A.(D) H.F. 0305/2).

S/ms. Attacked

2010 By H.M.S. PUFFIN, 52° 32' N., 2° 6' E., attacked suspected U-boat. (I.C. 0408/40). Oil appeared and by 0929/2 had extended for two miles (A.S.W.D. 211) (PUFFIN 2130/1. F.O.I.C. Harwich 0929/2). From reports by PUFFIN and WIDGEON contact probably non-sub. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1824/3, 0929/2).

War Diary

1. 4. 40.

Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Mediterranean

ANKARA	Loading bauxite at Dubrovnik for Trieste or Venice, 6 or 7 other German ships demanding engagement in this local trade. C.5 report. Italian destroyers will convoy. (A.N.A. Belgrade 2350/1)
	There are at present 27 German ships of 96,865 G.T. in Adriatic ports. (I.C. 0408/40) ANKARA expected to leave 3/4 or 4/4. (Mr. Campbell, Belgrade No. 92 ARFAR to F.O. 1/4.)

War Diary

1. 4. 1940.
Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

NORDENFELS	arrived Gothenburg (D.D.I.C. 2219/1, Gothenburg 1700/1)
MARIENBURG	- do - - do -
AACHEN	Sailed in ballast from Gothenburg (D.D.I.C. 2219/1. Gothenburg 1700/1)
AJAX	Sailed with general cargo -do- -do-
ALTONA	Arrived Narvik (Giblo, Narvik 1212/1) (Sent V.A.S.)
SEATTLE (?)	German steamer name painted out, about 6,000 tons, arrived Tromso 31/3 and anchored. Reported to have come from S. America (I.C. 0408/40) (Tromso 1154/1) (D.D.I.C. to N.P. and s/ms. on patrol, etc. 1000/2) see 2/4.
MIMI HORN	41 prisoners in H.M.S. TRANSYLVANIA due Clyde 1400/7/4. (V.A.N.P. 1052/1)
CEUTA	Reported 1850/31 that she would arrive Swinemunde on 1/4 and required tugs owing to damaged rudder (D.S.)
	5 German merchant vessels recently arrived Copenhagen now painting hulls and funnels black, upper works grey. Some funnel markings remain, also all ship's names. (N.A. Copenhagen 1845/1).
Dutch Ports	Activity of German merchant vessels in Dutch ports should be carefully watched and reported. (D.N.I. 1955/1)

America and West Indies

ANTILLA	At Aruba, now painted grey. (S.O.I. Kingston 1744/1)
HANNOVER	(Captured) Request 4 engineers, 2 with Diesel experience, be sent to Kingston for HANNOVER as soon as possible (C. in C.A.W.I. 1445/1). Arrangements being made. (D.T.D. 1939/4)

China

With exception of NAUMBURG at Sourabaya, NORDMARK at Batavia, and FRANKEN at Padang all German ships are fuelled, provisioned, cargoes shipped and ready to sail on lifting of attachments. (C.O.S. Singapore 0951Z/1).

War Diary

1. 4. 40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

East Indies

Use of Muscat — Possibility of use as a small advance base or convoy assembly port, as an alternative to Masirah. Can this be done without previous notice to Sultan. (C. in C.E.I. 0502Z/1)

Tankers for Trincomalee — D. of S.T's. 2249/20/3 and my 0715/22/3. Request consideration to providing tankers for replenishing X.1. with water at Trincomalee. (C. in C.E.I. 0656Z/1)

Dutch ALCINOUS — Sailed Suez 26/3 for Batavia. If met, should be sent in to Colombo or Singapore. (D.E.W.D. 1644/1).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Egyptian Local Defence — Forwarding message sent by War Office to G.O.C. in C. Middle East in reference to Ambassador's telegrams to F.O. No. 145/12/3 and No. 154/16/3. Alexandria defences still under consideration. Matruh defences not now strategically necessary (reasons given) (D. of L.D. to C. in C. Med. 2049/1)

Italian ASMARA — Reply to Admty. 1705/27/3. Ministry of Marine state that Royal Fleet Auxiliary ASMARA is commanded by a Captain, R.N. and manned by Naval crew. Cargo of copper consigned to Italian Navy who will transfer it to metal monopoly in replacement of same amount supplied by them for naval use. (N.A. Rome, 1141/1).

Censorship. Italian Mails — Examination of outward-bound diverted transit mail authorised and is to commence with mail of Italian ship REX which leaves Genoa 2/4. Give priority to bags of enemy origin and examine Italian bags on token basis only. (D.E.W.D. to C.C.S.O., Gib. 1131/1)

China

S/m Bases — Your 0246/30. Japanese Eastern News telegram 29/3 states information regarding possible German use of s/m bases at Whale Buoy., Possietta Bay and Emardorsky Island apparently emanating from Shanghai Anglo-French Naval Circle. (S.O.I.S. Singapore to C. in C. China 0414Z/1)

Dutch SALEIER — Prize cargo reported by N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1113/20/2 has been returned to Singapore and is now unloaded. Misunderstanding at Amsterdam. No blame attributable to Master or Company (S.O.(I) Singapore 0857Z/1.)

New Zealand

Your 0928/1. No objection provided officers and ratings absolutely forbidden to land in neutral territory, and Canal Zone including Balbao (Hd. of M. 2051/1 to Navy Office, Wellington)

Australia

German Ships — My 1013Z/31, interception of German ships. Cabinet concurs. (Australian N.B., 0300Z/1).

War Diary

1. 4. 40
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

America & West Indies

Ice Route — My 1211/31. To ensure convoys routed south of possible icebergs amend positions Y and Z (details) (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1446/1)

GRAF SPEE officers — H.M. Minister, Havanna, reports 12 officers of GRAF SPEE staying at Havanna, and that 2 German controlled schooners, ostensibly lobster boats, are in Cuba. (D.N.I. to S.O.(I) Jamaica 1809/1)

South Atlantic

Coastal Steamers — 50 for sale, Dutch registry, Cohen and Tyfield, Capetown, offer to purchase. (N.I.C. Simonstown 1554/1)

UNIWALECO — Investigation of report that crew, mainly Norwegians, of South African ship UNIWALECO pessimistic of ever reaching England owing to Nazi propaganda of dangers in convoy. General feeling on board pro-British and morale greatly improved since interviews (C. in C.S.A. 1933/1)

SL 27 — Your 1000/31 confirmation. Date of rendezvous. SL 27 is 21/4. (D.T.D. to N.C.S.O. Freetown 1200/1)

Simonstown Accommodation — Requesting approval to extend S.N.Os. office accommodation, Simonstown. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1257/1). Approved (P.S. to Civil Lord, 1051/5)

Mediterranean

Vescar System — Approved to extend to Italy (Hd. of M. 1105/1) and to Spanish ports and ports in Spanish possessions (M. 0703/40).

Suez Canal Degaussing. — Suez Canal Co., requests particulars of demagnetisation to degauss their salvage tugs. Risk of mining in Canal itself considered negligible, but possibility of mining in approaches cannot be ignored. (C. in C. Med. 1341/1).

War Diary

1. 4. 40.
Monday

CASUTALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands.

GENERTON overdue	Br. 4797 tons. Southend 7/3 in convoy OA 105 G. in ballast for Hampton Roads, Va to load grain, due 24/3, not yet arrived. Note: Arrived 3/4 (D.T.D.)
EMPIRE CONVEYOR overdue	Br. 5911 tons, in convoy OA 107 for Halifax, N.S., in ballast, due 24/3, not yet arrived.
CROMBIE	Motor vessel, disabled in North Sea with engine trouble, being towed into port. (Dundee Courier, press report)
FAIRWATER	Collided with unknown ship E. of St. Catherine's 0508/1. Damage not known. (Casualty Section B.M.S.M. 25, 3/4)

Mediterranean

MANSEPOOL	Collided with lighthouse in port of Constanza and considerably damaged (Press)

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous (Contd.)

Ice Conditions — No longer affecting shipping Danish waters. Light vessels replaced in Kattegat. (N.A. Copenhagen 1845/1)
Ice Report (V.A.N.P. 1855/1)

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	W. or S.W. Strong	Moderate	S.W. Strong to gale.
Channel	S. fresh to gale	Moderate	S.W. Gale
W. Approaches	N.N.W. Gale	Good	Wind backing
Horns Reef	S.W. Fresh.	Moderate	Similar.

Enemy Intelligence

Copenhagen - ships at — Ice conditions no longer affecting shipping Danish waters. 5 German merchant vessels arrived Copenhagen now painting hulls and funnels black, upper works grey. (N.A. Copenhagen 1845/1)

German Forces off Christiansand — French N.A. has received a telephone report from his agent at Bergen that there are German forces off Christiansand South. (N.A. Oslo 1600/1). No information re this local rumour. Incoming vessels report thick weather outside, fog and rain. (Vice Consul, Christiansand 2110/1)

War Diary

1. 4. 40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys — Positions (D.C. 1843/1)

OB 123 GF — to rendezvous with
OB 123 GF — 6/4, convoy then becomes
OGF 25 — (C. in C.W.A. 1031/1)
OA 121 — L 23 left with Convoy OA 121 (C. in C. Nore 1102/1) (N.C.S.O. Thames 1211/1).

VREDE — Admty. 1236/31 VREDE minutely searched and released. Clear she was in position and at time mentioned. Altered course thinking she sighted submarine. (N.A. Hague 1235/1)

Dutch Trawlers — Sailings suspended owing to air attacks until German intentions known (Press)

Consigs — OHN appendix II special code of signals cancelled. Consigs to be issued and brought into force for sailing ON 25 and HN 25. (D.T.D. 1404/1)

Downs Traffic — To be released and routed by QZS 60. V.A. Dover to instruct minesweepers to order traffic to return to Downs o r Dutch ports in event of more mines being cut. (C. in C. Nore 2227/1)

Humber-Tyne Traffic — Your 1839/25. Regret no more trawlers of type suitable for East Coast escort work available in near future. Humber-Tyne traffic should therefore be sailed in unescorted groups. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C. Nore 1228/1)

Miscellaneous

S/ms. in convoy — in Western Approaches Command - instructions. (C. in C.W.A. 2359/31)

Scapa Defences — Your 1845/26 and R.A. Scapa 1300/25. Employment of R.M.F.U. on completing task for which it was attached to 58 Brigade. (D. of L.D. to A.C.O.S. 1158/1).

Wandelaar Lightbuoy Reported replaced by light vessel (Hydrog. 1303/1

War Diary

1. 4. 40.

Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Air (Contd.)

British Air Activity (Contd.) (Bomber Command 1825/1). 55° 00' N., 5° 45' E. 90' West of Sylt (I.C. 0408/40)

Bombing Restrictions V.A.S. 1714/1. 1253/2.

F.A.A. Training at Toulon. Following recent arrangements with French by which certain F.A.A. training is to take place at Toulon and Hyeres, necessary to devise a standard procedure for routeing F.A.A. aircraft across France. Proposals. (Hd. of Air Branch 1729/1).

Minesweeping Reports

Weather prevented (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2031/1) (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1946/1)
5th M.S. cleared area 90%, 10th M.S. cleared area and cut 2 mines.
Considered traffic can be released tomorrow. (V.A.Dover 2004/1)
Latest searched channels (C. in C. Rosyth 1939/1)
Channels searched, negative result. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1930/1)
Sweeping abandoned, weather (F.O. Humber 1938/1)
Double Oropesa search, negative result.
Magnetic and skid sweep off Blyth abandoned, weather. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1907/1)
Operations curtailed, weather. (C. in C. Rosyth, No. 800/1)
One pair of "L" trawlers fitted with new Callender cable exploded 4 magnetic mines, no damage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1815/1)
Sweeping impracticable, weather (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1730/1) 5% search (F.O.I.C. Portland 1707/1)

Two mines were swept up in the North Foreland - Holland Channel. Traffic has been resumed.
Four mines were exploded off Harwich by the modified "LL" sweep without damage to the towing trawlers. (D.C.N.S. 211) (I.C. 0408/40)
Further evidence of an explosive anti-sweeping device in Goodwin-Fairy Bank area (I.C. 0408/40)

Dummy Minefield Laid by NARWHAL in direction 315° from 55° 57' N., 01° 21' W. (NARWHAL 1200/1)

War Diary

1. 4. 40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements

Home Fleet — Principal units at Scapa.

Northern Patrol
Orkneys to Faroes - Trawlers
Faroes to Iceland - 3 cruisers, 7 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait - 2 A.M.Cs.

S/ms. — Positions 0600/2 and movements. (R.A.(S) 1649/1, D.C. 2150/1, 0046/2)

French S/ms. — (10th S.F.) LA SIBYLLE, the first of the French submarines to operate from Harwich under British control, is now on patrol.

Operations

Operation D.V. — BIRMINGHAM to R.V. with FEARLESS, HOSTILE 1200. (D.C.N.S. 210).

Air

Enemy Air Activity

At least 5 German naval aircraft active in vicinity northern end German declared mined area 1142 B.S.T. (D.D.I.C. 1157/1)
Enemy aircraft off Tyne at 1630 (C. in C. Rosyth 1650/1).
3 enemy aircraft 170 miles west Horns Reef steering west at 1711/1. (D.C. 1751/1) (I.C. 0408/40).
2 or 3 enemy aircraft were reported over Scapa at 0830. Shore batteries opened fire without result. (D.C.N.S. 211).
At 1705 a Junkers 88 aircraft was attacked 25 miles East of Filey by a Blenheim bomber and was hit several times before escaping into cloud. (D.C.N.S. 211).

British Air Activity.

Searches tomorrow (C. in C. Rosyth 1830/1)
Cover for the Scandinavian convoys and anti-submarine patrols to the north and north-west of Scotland were the only patrols flown 1/4. (D.C.N.S.)

1223 9 Blenheim aircraft of Bomber Command were sent to attack patrol vessels off the Danish coast. Four were sighted, two of which opened fire. They were bombed without success. No attacks made on the two which did not fire. One bomber failed to return (D.C.N.S. 211)

War Diary 2. 4. 40.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

One to Eastward of Fair Island Channel 2011/1, probably outward bound. No other reliable reports. No ships attacked by submarines. (O.I.C., 0408/40) (D.D.I.C., 1228/2).

1329 By aircraft in position KLES 3933 (Aircraft 217 Sqdn., 1329/2). 13 miles S. of Bishop Rock, Scillies (A.S.W.D. 211).

1605 U-boat reported eastward of Fair Is. Channel at 1605 (100 Gr. Wing, H.Q., 1718/2). Cancelled (C. in C., Rosyth, 1910/2).

2025 D.F. unknown enemy unit, probable U-boat, 59:10 N., 1:40 W., unreliable fix. (D.N.I., 2101/2).

Your 1441. Will ~~airmen~~ a known non-sub. contact exists in 56:05:8 N., 02:25:8 W. (C. in C. Rosyth to FLAMINGO, 1522/2).

Submarines Attacked

ahead of Gibraltar convoy, outward,

1714 LEITH attacked good contact/with aircraft co-operation, in position 45 miles south-west of Land's End. Result of attack still in doubt. (D.C.N.S., 212) (LEITH, 1714/2) Stated later to be wreck (I.C., 0409/40). Proved to be non-sub. (D.C.N.S., 213). 49°39'N, 6°35'W.

1027 BEAGLE made 2 attacks on contact in 51:19:2 N., 01:49:4 E.

1050 BRILLIANT has joined. Non-sub. suspected but destroyer remaining in contact for the present. (V.A., Dover, 1438/2) (A.S.W.D., 211).

War Diary

2. 4. 40.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

America & West Indies

PATRICIA — At Curacao, reported in London to have been released from attachment and is free to sail. (I.C., 0409/40)(D.D.I.C., 2356/2).

KARIBIA — At Curacao, will be free to sail in 2 or 3 days. (I.C., 0409/40)(D.D.I.C., 2356/2) (S.O.I., Kingston, 1032/3). (D.D.I.C., 1254/4).

Mediterrenean

ANKARA — Is expected to sail from Dubronvnik (Ragussa) 4/4 with 400 tons bauxite. A further 8000 tons is waiting on the quay. (I.C., 0409/40). (A.N.A., Belgrade, 2120/2).

China

Reported 9 ships from Batavia, Tjilitjap, Sourabaya, Padang and Macassar have been released from their attachment and are free to sail 3/4. (I.C., 0409/40) (D.D.I.C., 2355/2).

LINDENFELS — From Sabang, free in 2 or 3 days' time.
WERDENFELS — " " " " " " " " "
SONECK — " Padang, free in 2 or 3 days' time.
(D.D.I.C., 2355/2) (I.C., 0409/40).

War Diary

2. 4. 40.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands.

SEATTLE	Ship referred to in my 1154/1 is SEATTLE, from Curacao via Iceland and Jan Mayen Island, 5000 tons of general cargo. Sailed southbound 2200 last night, Monday. (Cunning, Tromsoe, 0855/2)(D.C., 1355/2). Entered territorial waters at Malawnen (Tromsoe, 1342/4).
CHARLOTTE CORDS) EIFEL)	Leaving Rotterdam for Germany. (N.C.S.O, Rotterdam, 1317/2) (D.C., 1658/2). My 1658 is for information only. (D.C. to LA SIBYLL, 2020/2). Ships sailed at 2300/2. (D.D.I.C., 0324/3).
GODFRIED BUEREN	Passed southward fully loaded 1540. (Haugesund, 1605/2).
HEIN HOYER	Arrived Narvik 1/4. (D.D.I.C. 2003/2, Narvik, 1320/2).
LIPPE	Passed Haugesund, northbound without cargo 0930/2. (D.C., 1355/2, Haugesund 1100/2).
BOCKENHEIM	Intercept, apparently due at Narvik to load on 3/4. (I.C., 0409/40).
Ships at Copenhagen	Admiralty 1422, (arrival of German ships at Copenhagen) From German North Sea ports plying normal trade. No significance regarding presence. Information passed to facilitate recognition by British patrol. (N.A., Copenhagen, 1801/2).

South Atlantic

WINDHUK	Case appeal at present going in German favour. Cannot be concluded before 8/4. (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1759/2).
OSORNO.	No further confirmation of report of 31/3 of projected sailing from Talcahuano. (I.C., 0409/40).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Bermuda. Use for Convoys. In view of possibility of marine casualties resulting from handling of large convoys in Nova Scotia-Newfoundland area during forthcoming foggy months, consideration being given to use of Bermuda as an additional convoy assembly port for vessels homeward-bound from West Indies, Panama, etc. Intended that all major convoy arrangements should continue to be initiated by Halifax, Bermuda acting as a distributing agent for these instructions. (D.T.D., 2021/2, to C. in C., A.W.I. and N.S.H.Q., Ottawa). See 5/4.

Mediterranean.

Italian Mails Admiralty 1131/1. Asking whether CONTE GRANDE's mails are to be examined as well as REX's. (C.C.S.O., Gibraltar, 1250/2).
Reply. No. Examination to commence with REX and utmost secrecy essential until arrival of REX. (D.E.W.D., 2041/2).

Italian Submarine Area Ministry of Marine asks that an additional submarine exercise area be included in agreement signed 30/9/39. Area lies between line joining Island of Capri to Cape Vaticano and Italian Coast. (N.A., Rome, 1313/2).

China

Convoys for Soviet Ships Correspondent of the "Hochi" at Tsuruga states that Soviet naval commander announced 31/3 that he would convoy Russian merchantmen. According to the Hochi, Soviet warships have been seen in the Sea of Japan. (The Times, 3/4).

Contraband Running Your 1122/30. Request signals re contraband running in Pacific be addressed to C. in C., China. (D.N.I. to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1912/2).

Japanese Fleet At Amoy 30/3. (S.O.I., Singapore, 0401Z/2).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Vessels — Positions 1300/2. (D.C., 0038/2).

FRANCONIA — Re fresh water supply whilst vessel is lying alongside. (D. of S.T., to F.O.C.N.A., 0011/2).

South Atlantic

MIRROR Repairs — Your 0917/28. Cables and Wireless desire MIRROR to undertake this repair before she comes north again. (Hd. of M. to C. in C. S.A., 1601/2).

Convoy SL 26 — Route, etc. (N.C.S.O., Freetown, 1633/2).

Dispositions — Orders to RESOURCE, DECOY, DEFENDER, DAINTY & DIAMOND. (C. in C., S.A., 1450/2).

Watch on German Ships — As a result of your reports on activities of German ships a close watch has been kept on Santos for last 7 weeks and on Rio Grande do Sul for the last week. Such close watch unless immediately necessary is strategically unsound, particularly at a time when a raider may be out. Therefore, essential your reports should be more frequent, more informative as to result of action you have taken with Brazilian authorities, and deal particularly with likelihood of sailing say in next 24 hours. (R.A.S.A.D. to A.N.A., Rio, 2020/2).

America & West Indies

Cable Ships — Applications concerning movements of cable ships to be made direct to naval authorities at Halifax and appropriate action taken without waiting for Admiralty Approval. (Hd. of M., 1602/2).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

HOOD	Cancel my 2021/1. Refit will be carried out in U.K. as previously arranged (Sec. to Contr. 1938/2).
ANDANIA	Degaussing cable unshipped in heavy weather. Require repairs (ANDANIA 1027/2).
STANCLIFFE) MERTAINEN)	British STANCLIFFE collided with Swedish MERTAINEN at anchor causing loss of latter's anchor and cables. (Narvik, 1300/2).
ESSO BELGIUM	Unknown ship aground 51:13:5 N., 2:46 E. (N. Foreland Radio, no T.O.O. recd. 1119/2). 10,568 tons, tanker. (Casualty Section, N.M.S.M. No. 20, 3/4)

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence.

Main Units. Disposition.

Following forecast graded B.2 dated 23rd March has been received (I.C., 0408/40). Cruisers BLUCHER, PRINZ EUGEN, 3rd Destroyer Division at Sassnitz until further notice.

Cruisers EMDEN and KARLSRUHE, battleship SCHLESIEN at Sassnitz from 26/3 until further notice.

Cruiser LEIPZIG at Kiel from 28/3 until 10/4.

Battle-cruiser SCHARNHORST at Cuxhaven on 26/3.

Battle-cruiser GNEISENAU at Brunsbuttel on 24/3.

Cruisers NURNBERG, KOLN and pocket battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER operating between Schillig-Heligoland-Brunsbuttel-Schillig from 27/3 to 10/4. (D.D.I.C. 1227/2).

Troops Transported

A.1 report, large numbers of troops being transported to Rostock and concentrated there. Rationing in Germany stricter during last week. (N.A., Oslo, 1630/2). If transport was by sea, at which port were troops embarked (D.N.I., 1136/3).

Interception of Messages

D.N.I.'s R/S dated 6/12/39 and 10/3/40, subject interception of messages from German shore stations. Experience shows no information received from abroad that was not obtained in England. In consequence, all other work should take precedence of watch on these German stations and any observations made should be forwarded by safe hand. (D.N.I., 1657/2).

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

Submarines in Norwegian Waters — Unofficially the commanding Admiral asks that submarines on convoy duty be careful not to enter territorial waters. In consequence of internment of U.21 Norwegian Naval Authorities will in future be obliged to adhere strictly to neutrality regulations regarding submarines (Dormer, Oslo 1330/2).

Suspected Vessels — Dutch motor vessel CARIBIA is suspected. Immediate report to be made if met, and ship taken nearest port for search. (N.O.I.C., Harwich, 1130/Z). Additions to list of suspicious vessels. (Hd. of M., 1600/2).

? Explosion — Heard explosion at 2315. Can get no reply from COSSACK (SIKH, 0005/2). Am in company Convoy, emergency turn to port when close to Fair Island seen at 0025 (COSSACK, 0100/2). Report your position at 2315/1 to Capt. (D)3. (R.A.(D), H.F. to SIKH, 0342/2).

Ice Report — V.A.N.P., 1945/2.

Weather

	Wind	Visibility
North Sea, N.	N.E. Gale	Poor
North Sea, S.) Horns Reef) Channel) Western Appr.)	S.W. moderate	Moderate

Outlook: gale moderating in north, remainder unsettled.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (continued)

Dutch Fishing — Ymuiden report that some 10 Dutch fishing vessels have refused to put to sea owing to recent attacks by German aircraft. Main part of the Dutch fishing fleet is still at sea. (D.S., 2/4).

U.S.S. CHARLES McCORMICK — New York to Narvik. To be boarded, mails removed, passengers examined, etc. (D.E.W.D. to N.P., etc., 1737/2).

Downs Traffic — Cancel my 1603/31/3. Traffic may be released and routed QZS 60. V.A. Dover requested to instruct minesweepers to order traffic to return to Downs or Dutch ports in event of more mines being cut in or close to swept channel. (D.T.D., 1224/2).

OHN Convoy Routes — For OHN 26 and future Norwegian convoys present lettered positions in OHN Appendix 1 cancelled and others substituted. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1524/2).

Swedish MARY — Swedish motor ship MARY chartered to lift ~~xxx~~ cargo of coke ex Stettin for this port. (Nielsen, Skien, 1712/2).

Neutral Ships. Demagnetising — Press report that BURGOS sunk by magnetic mine when a demagnetised British ship ahead of her passed safely over the spot. Question of demagnetising neutral ships. (N.A., Oslo, 1600/2).

Entrance to Stavanger. — Your 1741/18. Am informed by Norwegian pilot that ships over 2000 tons must go outside 3 mile limit when passing neighbourhood of Kviting outside entrances to Stavanger (B.2). (Tromsoe to D.N.I., 1245/2).

COMETA — Re torpedoing outside Kirkwall. Hambro asks what explanation he can give ship being sent to Kirkwall. Shipping circles also ask why she was diverted. (N.A., Oslo, 1400/2).

War Diary

2. 4. 40.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

Positions (D.C., 1748/2).

HN 23	20 ships did not leave. May join HN 24 or 25 (N.C.S.O. Bergen, 1546/2).
HN 23A	Now split, 14 ships, escorted by 2 destroyers for West Coast, are south-west of Shetlands; and 26 ships, escorted by 4 destroyers for Methil, are off the Orkneys.
HN 23B	36 ships, has been badly scattered by the gale, but is approaching the Shetlands escorted by 6 destroyers and a submarine. 2 cruisers are providing cover.
ON 24	Outward-bound Norwegian, 19 ships, escorted by 4 destroyers, is hove to off the Orkneys. 3 more ships from Kirkwall are endeavouring to join. 24 hours late. (D.T.D., 1242/2, 1927/2).
HX 28	Congratulatory signal made on safe arrival from Halifax - 61 ships of 389,220 tons under Rear-Admiral E.O. Cochrane as Commodore and Capt-Cecil Allen, R.N., as Vice-Commodore. (D.T.D., 1241/2).
OA 122	(N.C.S.O., Thames, 1337/2, 1229/2).
OA 121G	Sailed with WELLINGTON. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0514/2, 0838/2).
HG 24	Orders to escort. (C. in C.W.A., 1107/2)
HX 33	Advance sailing telegrams (S.C.N.O., Halifax, 1041/2).
ON 25 & HN 25	Routes (C. in C., Rosyth, 1749/2).
HX 32	Sailing telegrams (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1202/2, 1201/2).
HGF 25	Sailing telegram (F.O.C.N.A., 1840/2, 2204/2).
HX 34	Route (D.T.D., 2029/2).
HN 24	Organisation, (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1614/2) Postponed 24 hours (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1531/2).
SL 26	Route (N.C.S.O., Freetown, 1633/2).

HOME COMMANDS

Air (continued)

Training Areas Extension proposed by Reserve Command (Air Ministry, 1510/2) No objections (R.A.N.A.S., 2211/5).

Mining

Sweeping Reports 3 magnetic mines destroyed off Orfordness by 2 LL Trawlers (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 1730/2).

Dangerous Area One mile either side of line joining position 58:45 N., 2:51½ W. and Old Head, South Ronaldshay, due to possibility of mines having been dropped from enemy aircraft (A.C.O.S.,2302/2).

Operation Wilfred May have to be postponed. Not to be commenced without further instructions from Admiralty. (D.O.D.(H) /2).

Balloon Barrages Harwich 6 balloon casualties due to lightning (H.Q. Balloon Command, 1910/2). Forth 16 casualties during past 24 hours due to strong wind. (H.Q. Balloon Cmd. 1140/2).

Goodwin-Wandelaar searched channel (60 Q.Z.S.) reopened for traffic to-day, 2/4. A Schevenigen broadcast states that the Schouwen Bank light whistle buoy has been withdrawn. (I.C., 0409/40).

Area in Scapa Flow and another off Old Head, South Ronaldshay, are closed on suspicion of aircraft minelaying. At 2040/2 a very large splash below a low-flying bomber was seen in approx. 320° Stroma light, 3 miles. (I.C., 0409/40).

HOME COMMANDS

Air. (continued)

Attack on HN 23B MARIA TOFT about 1600 — Danish. 2 casualties from machine gun fire landed Methil 4/4 (N.C.S.O., Methil, 1217/4).

CERES about 1600 — Finnish. 1 casualty from machine gun fire, landed Methil 4/4. (N.C.S.O., Methil, 1217/4).

Attacks on Convoys — Convoy being attacked by enemy aircraft, my position 240 WPZS 40 DSO 15 (BEDOUIN 1522/2, HN 23B). Capt. D.4 1457/2, (HN 23A), PENELOPE 1515/2, ON 24). Fighters have left for assistance of Convoy HN 23B, Alice.(? 1530/2). Aircraft has retired eastward (BEDOUIN, 1535/2).

Attack on Convoy ON 24 — Convoy Maria being attacked by enemy aircraft my position LKHI 2010 (Capt.D.6, 1458/2). 2 aircraft bombing ON 24 (Capt. D.6, 1504/2). 1 aircraft shadowing (Capt. D.6, 1530/2). 4 bombs dropped no ships hit, 1 aircraft still in sight. (Capt. D.6, 1544/2).

SHEFFIELD — Covering ON 24, bombed when that convoy was attacked. 2 bombs fell 250 yards ahead and the ship was machine gunned. No casualties or damage. 59:33 N., 00;00 E. (SHEFFIELD, 2044/2).

MIRA — (Bombed 31/3 and put into port) Left again 2/4 with convoy (?ON 24) was attacked by aircraft again in afternoon 2/4. (Press).

Enemy Aircraft Down — At 0917 one enemy aircraft was reported down 40 miles west of Terschelling. French submarine LA SIBYLLE was informed and two Blenheim aircraft were sent by Bomber Command to destroy the enemy aircraft but no trace was found. (D.C.N.S.) (D.D.I.C., 0927/2, Capt.(S)10, 1021/2).
LA SIBYLLE Patrol Report - search made for enemy aircraft (Admiralty 0927/2) without success. (V.A.S., 1424/5).

HOME COMMANDS

Air (continued)

Enemy Air Activity (Cont'd)

Attack by enemy aircraft may be expected (Nore, W/T 0521/2). Sighting reports, (F.O. Humber, 0757/2) GALATEA, 0742/2, GLASGOW 0735/2, PINTAIL 0555/2, LONDONDERRY, 0415/2, 0549/2, CODRINGTON, 0530/2.

Attack on Scapa

At 2035. A few bombs fell in the sea, one on land, no hits or damage. Two aircraft probably down. Riad complete failure (A.C.O.S., 2309/2). (D.C., 0857/3).

Appears 5 or 6 aircraft crossed the Flow and were engaged by Fleet and shore batteries. One or two bombs seen to fall into sea, no ships hit, and one aircraft believed damaged by gunfire. BERWICK observed one aircraft jettisoning bombs off Stroma Island, one bomb fell on Hoy and several in Gutter Sound. (D.C.N.S. 212)

Convoy HXA Attacked

Convoy HXA being attacked by enemy aircraft, position VXDN 0010, Dungeness. (VANESSA 0445/2, 0455/2)(C. in C.,Nore, 0507/2).

Attacks on ON & HN Convoys

ON24 was attacked at 1458, 35 miles east of North Ronaldshay. SOMALI (S.O.) reported 4 bombs dropped, no hits.

HN 23B was attacked at 1515, 25 miles east of Fair Island. BEDOUIN (S.O.) reported 6 bombs dropped, no damage. (BEDOUIN, 1609/2, 1522/2).

HN 23A was attacked at 1457, 50 miles north of Kinnaird's Head. AFRIDI (S.O.) reported enemy aircraft were driven off by gunfire and that no ships were hit. (AFRIDI, 1447, 1505, 1516/2).

ISIS on A/S hunt in Moray Firth was attacked with bombs at 1443 without result. (ISIS, 1443, 1449/2).

Fighters went to assistance of HN 23B and the Battle Flight to help ON 24. No interceptions reported, but enemy aircraft retired eastward shortly afterwards.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (continued)

Iron Ore Traffic

Norwegian coast defence ship NORGE and EIDSVOLD sailed southward from Tromsoe, 1/4. (D.D.I.C. 0920/2).
Norwegian coast defence ship TORDENSKJOLD and HARALD HAAFAGRE arrived Narvik 1/4. (D.D.I.C. 1049/2).
Consuls asked to report by telegraph present position of Norwegian war vessels and all future movements. (D.N.I., 1616/2).

Air.

Bombing Restrictions

From 1600 until dark today after consultation with NARWHAL. (C. in C., Nore, 1220/2).

Identifying Ships

X-69 2/4. Your ASD/B/28/2 and A.M. A.517/8/3 (refers to 2016/8/3.
Admiralty no longer require aircraft on these patrols to fly low and near convoys or group of ships in order to identify ships by name. (Air Min., 1510/2, to Coastal Command).

Interception Exercise

DIANA to take part and to leave Rosyth pm/3/4. On completion to proceed to Humber. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1208/2).

British Air Activity

Normal air reconnaissance flights carried out over North Sea.
At 0900, a section of Spitfires engaged 2 Heinkels off the East Coast and one was believed to have been forced down. One Spitfire force-landed with the pilot wounded.
At 1155, a section of Hurricanes encountered a severe squall east of Harwich and one of our aircraft crashed into the sea. Patrol vessels searched the area without result. (D.C.N.S.)

Air Enemy/Activity

Considerable during 2/4, in three phases - reconnaissance on the East Coast and Channel between 0500 and 0730; air attacks on O.N. and H.N. convoys between 1430 and 1600; and an air attack on Scapa at 2040. (D.C.N.S. 212, I.C., 0409/40).

2. 4. 40.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet — No capital ships at sea.

Northern Patrol — Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 6 A.M.C's.
Denmark Strait, - 1 A.M.C.
North of Iceland - 1 A.M.C.
All cruisers withdrawn temporarily in connection with Plan "Wilfred" and Plan R.4.

Submarines — Positions 0600/3 and movements (R.A.(S) 1631/2, D.C. 2112/2).

H.B.F. Patrol — Your 1449/27, does this mean that H.B.F. trawler patrols referred to in your 2024/1 are also being withdrawn. (Air Min. 1834/2 to Admiralty).

Operations

Operation D.V. — BIRMINGHAM and two destroyers are proceeding to operate against German fishing vessels in North-western Norwegian waters. (D.C.N.S., 211).

Submarines on Patrol — Orders for TRITON, TRIDENT, ORZEL to proceed to attack and then report enemy warships and transports. (cf. Enemy Intelligence) Orders for TRUANT (relieve TRIDENT 9/4). Bombing restrictions arranged (Capt. S.2 1551/2).

On arrival at position DKJV 505° your object is to attack and then report enemy warships and transports (Capt.(S)6 1817/2 to SWORDFISH).

2 small darkened vessels sighted 0000 and 0140/2 approx. 11 and 19 miles 65° from Smith's Knoll Lt. V. Probably schooner or fishing vessels proceeding eastward. Unable to catch owing to lack of speed. (SEALION 1603/2).

GENERAL

Movements

Minesweepers, Organisation. Following reorganisation of fast minesweeping vessels at home and abroad has been approved:-

1st M/S Flotilla, Home Fleet, to remain as at present.

2nd M/S Flotilla, China Station, to consist of ABERDARE, HARROW, COCKCHAFER.

3rd M/S Flotilla, Mediterranean, to consist of HUNTLEY, ABINGDON, BAGSHOT, FAREHAM, STOKE.

4th M/S Flotilla, Nore Command, to consist of NIGER, SALAMANDER, DUNOON, DUNDALK, FITZROY, SELKIRK, SUTTON, ELGIN.

5th M/S Flotilla, Rosyth Command, to consist of GOSSAMER, LEDA, ALBURY, KELLETT, LYDD, PANGBOURNE, ROSS, SALTASH.

6th M/S Flotilla, Dover Command, to consist of HALCYON, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, HARRIER, SKIPHACK. 6th M/S F. to be regarded as available to reinforce 3rd M/S F. in Mediterranean should need arise.

DERBY at Aden, WIDNES at Colombo, and FERMOY at Gibraltar will not form part of M/S Flotillas and are to be administered locally.

(D.M.S., approved D.C.N.S., 1412/2).

War Diary

3.4.1940.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Submarines Attacked.

0105 FORTUNE and FORESTER remaining until daylight in position 49°36'N. 06°46'W. where 3 pattern and 2 electrically fired charges have been fixed by WAKEFUL and VENETIA. Big leakage of oil fuel. FORTUNE and FORESTER in firm contact. WAKEFUL and VENETIA rejoin O.G.24 at 0900 today. (FORTUNE 0105/3). Your 0105. Oil is in position of known wreck. Proceed in execution of previous orders unless you have definite evidence of presence of U-boat. (C.in C. W.A.0354/3) (A/S.W.D.212). Destroyers left contact 0540/3. (FORTUNE 0540/3).

War Diary

3.4.1940.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships Attacked.

Submarines Reported.

0506 Enemy unit, probably U-boat, 57°10'N. 2°W. unreliable fix (D.D.I.C.0530/3). Reliable position (I.C.0409/40).

0115 Enemy unit, probably U-boat, approx. 40 miles eastward of Kinnaird's Head, unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C.0148/3) 57°40'N. 0°40'W. approx. (I.C.0409/40).

0050 Possible submarine contact in 52°39'20"N, 02°25'20"E. Search continuing. (SHELDRAKE, 0130/3) (A/S.W.D.212). PUFFIN ordered to join search. (N.O.I.C.Harwich, 0405/3).

1800 64°30'N. 10°E. (65 miles N.Trondheim). Unconfirmed report of large submarine course S (I.C.0412/40).

0230 Submarine reported on surface in position 100° Rattray 4 miles steering N.N.E. magnetic. BEDOUIN asked to report if this was PORPOISE. (C.in C.Rosyth, 1011/3). This could not have been PORPOISE (BEDOUIN, 1150/3). Destroyers etc. informed(C.in C. Rosyth 1813/3, 1858/3) R.A.(D) H.F.2145/3).

Estimated Positions:-
1 in 57°10'N., 2°E.0506/3 probably outward bound.
1 south of Fair Island 2025/2 may be the U-boat reported in same vicinity previous night still patrolling or another outward bound.
1 about 40'E. of Kinnaird's Head 0115/3.
Destinations obscure but there may now be 2 bound for Atlantic, 1 for Moray Firth and 1 to patrol vicinity of Orkneys and Shetlands. (I.C.0409/40). D.D.I.C.1207/3)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

FRANKENWALD	Arrived Trondheim (Trondheim 1701/3) (D.C.0148/4) (see 4/4).
HANS LEONHARDT	Passed southward (Haugesund 2020/3) -do-
FRIGGA	Arrived from north loaded -do- -do-
HERO) MILOS)	Loading fish (Aalesund, 1215/3) -do-
FECHENHEIM	Sailed from Narvik with ore (D.D.I.C.1739/3) (Narvik 1302/3).
ERIKA HENDRIK FISSER	Arrived Rotterdam, probably sailing tonight (D.D.I.C.1716/3) (N.C.S.O.Rotterdam 1445/3). Stated to be first German ship to make passage from Narvik to Rotterdam since outbreak of hostilities.
CHARLOTTE) CORDS.) EIFEL.)	Admty.0002/3, re sailing from Rotterdam. No action taken previously because assumed action by SYBILLE was intended. Doubtful whether accuracy of these reports from Holland justified sending destroyers through water heavily mined. (C.in C. Nore, 0940/3).
Fishing Vessels.	Movements (D.C.0148/4).

America & West Indies.

RHAKOTIS	Callao reports signs of activity. (S.O.I.Kingston 1100/3). Apparently unimportant (S.O.I.Kingston 2150/3).
ANTILLA	Hull only painted grey. (S.O.I.Kingston 2046/3).
CURACAO	In view of possibility early sailing would appreciate early advice any information of route of MIMI HORN. (S.O.I. Kingston 1020/3).

China.

MONI RICKMERS	Sabang. My 1201/30/3. Air sighting report, 1/4. Moored alongside other 3 ships south of Ruan. (C.O.I.S.Singapore 0256Z/3).

Mediterranean.

ANKARA	Question as to interception (see FOREIGN STATIONS - Mediterranean).

War Diary

3.4.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

MALAYA	Probably refit at Malta and will not proceed to U.K. on completion of escort duty. (D.C.N.S.0132/3).
French Submarines.	AJAX and ARCHIMEDE left Portsmouth for Halifax 0647/3 with O.A.122. (D.O.D.(F) 1604/3) (C.in C. Portsmouth 0647m 1457/3).
D.F. Stations.	Admty. 1805/29/3. Suggested Canadian and Newfoundland D.F.Stations be provided with Merchant Navy Code and that purport of Admty. message A.M. be only brought into force when circumstances warrant it. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1239/3).

China.

BARLANE	My 1047/29/2 and Admty.1319/26/3. Important BARLANE is in service at Hong Kong before typhoon season commences. (C.in C. China, 0442Z/3).
German Shipping.	Admty.1143/3. British Embassy Shanghai's 258 to F.O. S.O.I. Shanghai reports these ships flying German flag are now trading as far afield as Wenchow carrying cargo despatched from Shanghai by German firm Carlowitz. (C.in C. China 0444Z/3).

Australia.

U.S.2	Your 0956Z/1, use of reference number U.S.2 and U.S.3. Concur. (D.O.D.(F), 1317/3, to Australian N.B.). My 1231/6 and my 1702/15 from D. of S.T. The reference number U.S.2 is to be used for shore group and U.S.3 for fast group. (D.O.D.(F) 1316/3).

East Indies.

SUFFREN	Admty. 2355/2. SUFFREN is available to cooperate with Malaya Force if you wish (C.in C. E.I. to Cdre. Malaya, 0226Z/3).

FOREIGN STATIONS

GRAMPUS — Sailing (for Med.) delayed by defect (C.in C. China 1020Z/1).

COLOMBO — In hand 1/4 for repairs, anticipate complete 15/4. (A.S.Singapore, 0546Z/3).

North Atlantic.

French Convoys — Positions (D.C.0225/3).

French War-ships. — Positions 1200/4 (D.C.2342/3).

Dutch Interception — F.O.C.N.A's 1240/2 interception of Dutch ship by H.M.S. WRESTLER. Vessels arrived 0745/3. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 0932A/3).

South Atlantic.

Freetown Boom. — Further to my 1320/20/3. Details of extension to main boom at Freetown. (C.in C. S.A.1633/3).

COMORIN. — Your 1003/3. Unless orders to contrary given, H.M.S. COMORIN to escort SOUTHERN EMPRESS and HEKTORIA and 4 catchers to Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. to S.N.O. Simonstown 1825/3).

Mediterranean.

AKIURA MARU Japanese. — If will not undertake proceed Haifa to be sent there under armed guard. (D.E.W.D.1649/3).

ANKARA German. — Ref.0226/3 from N.A. Belgrade (? 2120/2 intended).

Does international situation now admit of this and other ships engaged in this traffic being intercepted. (C.in C. Med., 1357/3) Reply, No see 5/4.

Italians and Corfu. — Master of U.S.S.HYBERT states Italians at Venice boasting that they are going to take Corfu next week. (CALEDON 2355/3).

Mail Interception. — Admty, 1710/1 and C.in C., Med.'s 1115/4/3. May outward transit mail be examined (a) in Port Said for ships accepting control, and (b) outside territorial waters for others. In practice (b) would apply to Italian only. (S.B.N.O., Suez Area, 1816/3).

War Diary

3.4.40
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects.

URSULA — Defects. Propose taken in hand at Swan Hunter's about 22/4. (V.A.S.2047/3). Agreed (D.O.D.(H) 1656/4).

SALMON — V.A.S.1249/1/4. Taken in hand. Hope to complete by 10/5. (D.Y.Chatham 1255/3).

War Diary

3.4.1940
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping
Contd.

BELGIQUE — Belgian ship. Certain cargo to be seized at Falmouth (D.T.D.1710/3).

ECONOMIC WARFARE. — On the occasion of the signing of the War Trade Agreement with Denmark, following those with Sweden and Norway, the Admiralty have expressed their thanks to the Vice-Admiral, Officers and men of the Northern Patrol, the trawlers, aircraft of the Hatston Station and Coastal Commands, and the Contraband Control for the zeal and fortitude with which they have carried out their trying duties during an exceptionally severe and stormy winter. To their untiring efforts we owe the conclusion of these agreements which cut off enemy supplies which could not have been stopped by contraband and export control alone, and provide means for systematically tightening our hold. (D.E.W.D.1605/3)

S.S.UGANDA — Re Route (Admty 1221/3). Reply (C.in C. W.A.2338/4).

Examination of Mails. — My 1923/30/12/39, para.5. Commencing midnight 4/5 April outward-bound transit mails will be examined for enemy exports, but utmost secrecy is to be observed until that hour. All ships carrying outward mails are to be sent in to Kirkwall for removal of such mails unless removal can be effected at sea. Outward mails in U.S. ships may only be removed at sea. (D.E.W.D.2109/3).

Miscellaneous

Suspicious Vessels. — To be added to list - Dutch schoot ENCE and Belgian trawler BL2 (corrupt group), BL20 ANTIORES, BL29 SAINT MARIE JOSEF, PROTEGEZ NOUS, Z15 BLADC, MARGUERITE and H.42 (PHAHAILDE (N.O.I.C.Harwich, 0202/3).

Norwegian Neutrality. — I learn that Norwegian armed forces will use force to prevent violation of their neutrality for belligerent purposes (N.A.Oslo 1745/3).

WEATHER

0500/3/4.	Wind	Visibility.
North Sea.	S.E. strong to gale	Moderate, deteriorating.
Channel	S.E. fresh	Poor, rain, improving.
Western Approaches.	W. fresh.	Good showers.
Horns Reef.	Light airs.	Good deteriorating.

War Diary

3.4.1940
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping.

Convoys

Positions (D.C.1813/3).

H.N.23A escorted by 4 destroyers, off the Tay. Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1241/3).

H.N.23B escorted by 6 destroyers and 1 submarine, off Kinnaird's Head.

O.N.24 escorted by CAIRO and 4 destroyers and covered by SHEFFIELD and PENELOPE, east of Shetlands.

H.G.F.24 arrived (N.O.I.C.Liverpool 1208/3).

H.G.F.25 Route (D.T.D.1043/3).

O.G.24 Route (C.in C. W.A.1116/3) Details (C.in C. W.A. 1123/3).

H.N.25 20 ships waiting including some returned from H.N.23 (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1215/3).

S.L.27 Additions (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1314/3). Destinations (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1815/3).

H.N.24 Sailed for rendezvous (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1620/3) (D.T.D.1633/3).

H.X.33 Destination (D.T.D.2002/3).

O.N.25 and H.N.25 Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C.Rosyth 1141/3).

H.X.32 Position (C.in C. W.A.1632/3) (D.T.D.2008/3).

Evasions of Control. Norwegian ships LEC, VELA, KERET and CORVUS alleged intention to evade contraband control. (D.T.D.2005/3).

Mail Interceptions. My 2012/1. To avoid congestion when examination of outward transit mail commences only 5% of eastbound parcel mail to be landed until further orders. (D.E.W.D.2009/3).

Routeing. Westbound shipping to be routed outside a prohibited area (defined). (D.T.D.1221/3).

Demagnetising Neutral Ships. Your 1600/2, demagnetising neutral ships. Information on this point is about to be promulgated to neutral representatives. (D.N.I. to N.A. Oslo 1253/3).

War Diary

3.4.40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Air. (continued)

British Air Activity — Normal reconnaissance patrols were restricted by the weather.

Exercises — Detailed in my Ops. 685 of 1/4 will take place 4/4. (H.Q., Bomber Command, 1810/3).

Aircraft Over E. Coast Convoys — N.C.S.O. Thames reports our fighters close and sport around East Coast Convoys, causing doubts whether fire should be opened or not. Consider such action extremely unfair and detrimental to safety. Custom can only be justified if our machines are used for target practice in all such cases. (C. in C., Nore, 1157/3).

Mining

NARWHAL — Proceeding to Zone B to carry out a minelaying operation 50 miles north-west of Heligoland. (D.C.N.S., 212).

BORDE — Details of damage. Temporary repairs not practicable. Ordered to proceed Sheerness and Chatham. (C. in C., Nore, 2254/3)(Adty. Salvage Officer, Harwich, 1900/3).

Sweeping Operations — Negative results. (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 1955/3).
No mines found, weather interfered. (V.A., Dover, 1947/3). Groups attacked by aircraft, no casualties. (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1927/3).
Latest searched channel. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1903/3).
Curtailed owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1901/3).
N.O.I.C., Falmouth, 1830/3. N.O.I.C., Liverpool 1800/3, F.O., Humber, 1917/3.
No mines found (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1815/3).
No sweeping (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1808/3).
Weather impossible (N.O.I.C. 1743/3, A.C.O.S. 1725/3).

Operations P.B. and "Wilfred" — Intend to carry out operations P.B. on 6/4. (C. in C., Nore, 1750/3). Operations (WILFRED) will take place on 8/4 (D.O.D.(H)?/3). 4 ships of 5th S.F. to arrive Harwich by 1500/5 for operation P.B. (V.A. Dover, 1937/3). D2, D3, D20, TIVIOT BANK revert to usual notice for steam. Capt. (D) 20(? to report) after complying with my 2302/2 (C. in C., H.F. 1026/3).

HOME COMMANDS

Air (continued)

after BRACONDENE had sent S.O.S. on R/T. GORSPEN and TAGALIE got their Lewis guns into action. (Wick Radio 1349/3) (C-in-C Rosyth 1849/5) GORSPEN bombed and abandoned, crew (1 wounded) rescued by another trawler. She is possibly the derelict reported on night 3/4 19 miles E. by N. Balte Sound (I.C. 0412/40)

MIRA — (Attacked 31/3, 2/4) In convoy (?ON 24) attacked at intervals from 11.50/3 to 1800/3 when a British destroyer drove off the last A/C. Two wounded by splinters from near miss. No hits. (Press).

Enemy a/c's returned to their bases by 2100 and it is understood that 1 enemy a/c crashed on landing in Norway. (I.C. 0410/40)

British patrols — were restricted by the weather.

Reporting of ships — Ref. my ASD/73, 28/2. Isolated ships are to be identified by name. The general positions of convoys or groups are to be reported but not identified by name when in convoy or group. (H.Q. C.C. 1150/3)

Bombing Restrictions — Request restrictions in Adty. 1539/24/3 be cancelled and new bombing restriction areas substituted. (V.A.S. 1042/3).

Dispositions — No. 801 F.F. Sqdn. (6 Skuas) formed for FURIOUS and working up at Evanton now considered ready for operational employment. (D.N.A.D. 1959/3) Request if accommodation available at Hatston for about 2 months for 771 Sqdn., flight of 700 Sqdn., 804 Sqdn., and one long-nosed Blenheim squadron of Coastal Command (D.N.A.D. 2000/3)

Water borne balloons — Request all concerned be warned that the term close-hauled in the case of balloons flown from water-borne sites means that such balloons may be flying up to 1,000 feet. Water-borne sites are in the following areas:- Scapa, Forth, Humber, Harwich, Thames, Southampton. (Air Min. 2000/3, R.A.N.A.S. 2205/3)

HOME COMMANDS

Air (continued)

ST.LOUIS	1215	French trawler, attacked 10 miles N.E. of the Longstone (Northumberland) at 1215. (Cullercoats W/T 1215/3)
ST. LAWRENT	1319	British trawler, attacked 6 miles E.N.E. of the Longstone at 1319. (Wick Radio, 1320/3 F.O.I.C. Humber, 1342/3)
	1927	Minesweepers working off River Tees attacked by A/C. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1927/3) (I.C. 0410/40) H.M. Tr's SYCAMORE and STELLA ONION with other trawlers were bombed and machine gunned. No damage or casualties. (I.C. 0413/40 says this occurred on 2/4).
CORENNIE	1240	Attacked 15 m. S.S.W. (mag.) of Fiar Isle by 2 Heinkels. 2 heavy bombs and some incendiaries dropped and vessel machine gunned. No damage or casualties. (Wick Radio 1250/3) (C-in-C Rosyth 1703/4) Replied with Lewis gun.
DELILA	1250	Attacked 25 m. N.N.W. of Fraserburgh by 2 Heinkels. 12 heavy bombs dropped and machine gunned. No damage or casualties. Replied with Lewis gun and claims 1 hit. (C-in-C Rosyth 1703/4)
GORSPEN see also later.	1515	Attacked 19 miles E. by N. Balta Sound N.E. of Shetlands by 2 A/C. Bomb fell near severe damage. Crew took to lifeboat and picked up by BRECONDENE, Aberdeen , landed at Lerwick by another trawler. GORSPEN still afloat when last seen. 1 man slightly wounded. (Press Association) (A.C.O.S. 1925/5). (C-in-C Rosyth 1849/5).
STEN	1415	Norwegian, attacked by A/C outside territorial waters. (Bergen cable to New York Times.).
GORSPEN TAGALIE BRAEMAR FORT ROSE BRACONDENE		Attacked 1349/3. N.O.I.C. Aberdeen reports air attack at 1430 on these trawlers as well as GORSPEN, fishing in a group 20 miles E. by S. (Mag.) of Muckle Flugga. No damage or casualties. 2 enemy planes driven off by 2 fighters which came out

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Attacks on Convoys

Air attack on ON Convoy probable about 1245. (C-in-C Rosyth 1136, 1146/3). 6 aircraft carried out high bombing attack on ON 24 in single units. Attack lasted 1½ hours. 15 bombs observed. No ship hit. (Capt.(D)6, 1725/3, 1638/3, 1600/3, 1555/3) (Donibristle 1920/3).
Sightings:- ESKIMO, 0920/3, shore-based aircraft 0925/3, Capt(D)6, 0946/3, GRIFFIN 1019/3, BEDOUIN 1035/3, JUNO, 1130/3, Cullercoats W/T, 1215/3, F.O.I.C. Humber 1342/3, Wick Radio, 1250/3, 1253/3, GRIFFIN 1305/3, 1315/3, Wick Radio 1320/3, BEDOUIN 1325/3, Wick Radio 1349/3, Donibristle no T.O.O./4, C-in-C Rosyth 2340/4, 0040/5.
22 ships in ON 24. Shadowed from 0945. At time of attack was north of the Viking Bank, about 450 miles from nearest German aerodrome (D.C.N.S. 213). 3 attacks 1555 by 4 aircraft 1638 by 6 aircraft, 1735 lasted 1½ hours (I.C. 0410/40)
Sunderland aircraft escorting Convoy ON 24 repelled enemy attack, and shot down one JU 88 machine. It is evident that the repeated attacks on Convoy ON 24 were greatly frustated by accurate A/A fire from the escorting vessels, and although a number of bombs were dropped no apparent damage resulted to ships in convoy. (I.C. 0410/40) Congratulations on gallantry and success of Sunderland (D.O.D.W.) to C.C. 1447/4)

HN 23B, homecoming Norwegian convoy, shadowed from 0920 to 1325 while passing down Scottish coast south of Kinnairds Head, but not attacked. (D.C.N.S. 213, HQ C.C. 1840/3)
Presence of 3 F.A.A. Skuas with convoy probably deterred the many enemy aircraft from attacking (I.C. 0410/40)

Spitfire lost

Spitfire crash dived into sea, 51° 47'N, 1° 48½E (N.C.S.O. London, 1350/3, from S.S. RAVONIA). Crew of Spitfire rescued by Grimsby trawler SILVER LINE taken Hartlepool. (GLOWWORM, 1430/3).

German A/C's lost

German A/C possibly in sea 30 miles E. of Hartlepool (C-in-C Rosyth, 1202/3). Crew rescued by Yarmouth trawler and taken Scarborough. (GLOWWORM 1430/3)
German bomber forced landing near Stavanger 3/4 burnt out and crew interned. (Stavanger 1610/4) Possibly one of those driven off ON 24. (I.C. 0411)

War Diary

3.4.40.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet

All capital ships are in harbour.
Cruisers and destroyers are being disposed in preparation for Plan "Wilfred" and Plan R.4.
SOUTHAMPTON and MANCHESTER are at Scapa.
DEVONSHIRE and BERWICK due Rosyth 0800.
YORK, GLASGOW, ARETHUSA and GALATEA are at Rosyth. AURORA on passage to Clyde.
Capt.(D)20, with the Minelaying Division and TEVIOT BANK, has arrived at Scapa.
BIRMINGHAM and 2 destroyers are off Norwegian coast operating against German merchant shipping and fishing trawlers.

Northern Patrol

Orkneys to Faroes, trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland, 7 A.M.C.'s.
Denmark Strait, 2 A.M.C.'s.

1st C.S.

Adty. 1142/2 to replace DORSETSHIRE on S.A. Station by SUSSEX. This will mean that effective strength of 1st C.S. will be only 3 ships until beginning of July. Sooner strength can be raised to 4 so that 2 can be maintained on patrol the better. I would sooner have SUSSEX (C-in-C H.F., 1029/3).

S/m's

At 0600/4 (D.C. 1908/3, V.A.S. 1552/3) Avoidance of areas in QZ 170, 199, 243, 281 and in C-in-C Rosyth's 1629/26/3 source of considerable concern in routeing s/m's to and from patrol. Request whether any may now be considered safe. (V.A.S. 1043/3) Reply (D.M.S. 1136/5)

Use of Clyde

I agree with N.O.I.C. Greenock's 1132/29/3. My intention is to use Clyde for change and recreational purposes of a portion of capital ships and cruisers based at Scapa. Almost certain in view of traffic in Clyde area that another attempt will be made to mine it which should be nipped in the bud in same manner as last one was. Importance of Liverpool and Belfast are concurred in and they should be dealt with in similar manner. All 3 ports are focal points and U-boats will go there. It is hoped that adequate air reconnaissance will also be provided. (C-in-C H.F., 1027/3).

War Diary. 4.4.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

S/M's Reported.

Believed dispositions. No reports on which to base reliable deductions.
Possibly:-
2 now to westward of Scotland outward bound,
1 in Moray Firth.
1 patrolling near Orkneys and Shetlands.
(D.D.I.C. 1501/4).

1453 61°40'N., 2°24'E., 061° Muckle Flugga 106'. Reported by aircraft. (I.C., 0411/40) (C-in-C., Rosyth, 1732/4).

1525 56°37'N., 4°12'E., N.W. corner of German minefield. Sighted by aircraft, co. 300°. Submerged before attack could be made (probably British). (I.C., 0411/40). (D.C., 1944/4) (C-in-C., Rosyth. 1840/4) .

0005 N.A. Hague reports 700 tons U-boat 55°01'N., 4°01'E, (B.3) course N.W. (D.C., 2322/4). (N.A., Hague 1900/4).

1400 N.A. Hague reports 500 tons U-boat 6' off Ymuiden, (B.3). Course S.W. (D.C., 2322/4). (N.A. Hauge, 1900/4).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands. (Contd).

SIVAS	Arrived with coal (N.C.S.O., Gothenberg 1301/4).
HESTIA	Arrived with general cargo (N.C.S.O., Gothenbert, 1301/4).
MIMI HORN	Asking for information as to routes to be signalled (D.D.I.C. to TRANSYLVANIA, 1500/4). Reply. (TRANSYLVANIA, 1335/7).

Mediterranean.

ANKARA	Reported by Press to have delayed sailing from Dubrovnik (I.C., 0411/40). (Has 4000 tons of bauxite for transhipment to Trieste shortly to load 5000 tons bauxite. (S.O.(I), Malta, 1827/4).

America & West Indies.

OSORNO.	Reported to be loading ballast at Talcahuano. (S.O.(I), Callao, 1850/4).
TINE ASMUSSEN	Tanker, 6705 tons, reported by Press to have been sold to Mexican Govt. at Puerto Mexico. This has not been recognised officially. (I.C., 0411/40).
RHAKOTIS MUCNEN.	At Callao, cargoes of wood are said to be spoiling and immediate action is required to avoid a total loss. (Callao, 1850/4).
PROMETHEUS	Ex-German tanker (8890 tons) transferred to the Panamanian flag sailed for Aruba from Saint Vincent, Cape Verde, with American crew on board. German crew, who number 34, are awaiting repatriation and appear to be under no restrictions on their movements. (S.O.(I)., Freetown, 2235/4).

German Merchant Ships.

Home Commands.

Information received (A.1) that all German merchant ships proceeding between Germany and Norwegian ports are now using Skagerrak and Kattegat. (D.D.I.C., 2213/4).
Ships sighted on 2/4 and 3/4 by Master of BRIGHTON bound from Narvik to Hergen - IMATRA, AACHEN, LIPPE, BLAKENBURG, and THESEUM (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1332/4).

FRANKENWALD) FRANKENSTEIN) (?)) LUBECK)	Request confirmation of Trondheim 1701/3, as FRANKENWALD was reported sunk after stranding on 6/1 in neighbourhood of Sognefjord. (O.D.I.C., 1252/4). Reply: Name partly obliterated, now displys name board FRANKENSTEIN. Ship is in ballast and is reported to have grounded, diving tender alongside to-day. (N.C.S.O., Trondheim, 1602/4). No reason to doubt previous report that FRANKENWALD stranded and sank on 6/1. Ships using the LUBECK's call sign was asking for assistance of salvage steamer off Balsnaes, 69°30'N., 19°01'E, on 1st April and calling herself the FRANKENSTEIN. This ship with name partly obliterated but displaying name board with FRANKENSTEIN arrived Trondheim 3/4 and had diving tender alongside 4/4. (I.C., 0411/40).
KIEL	Sailed from Narvik loaded with ore, (D.C., 2302/4, Narvik 1335/4).
AFRIKA	Loading at Narvik (D.C., 2302/4, Narvik 1335/4).
SEATTLE	Passed Aalsund southbound 1800/3. (R.A.(S), 2146/4.
ASIEN	Passed Aalsund southbound 1800/3. (R.A.(S), 2146/4.
FRIGGA	Passed Haugesund southwards night of 3-4/4 with ore (D.D.I.C. 2135/4. Haugesund 1255/4.
2 ships.	Passed southbound 1800/3 (N.C.S.O. Aalsund 1100/4)
BOCHENHEIM	Passed Haugesund northwards 0815/4. (D.D.I.C., 235/4, D.N.I., 1544/5) (Haugesund, 1050/5).
P.C.270.	German trawler, laden, passed Haugesund northwards 0945/4. (D.D.I.C., 2135/4).
HERO	Is at Bergen. (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1332/4).
NORDWEST) NORDFELS) MARIENBURG)	Left Gothenberg (N.C.SO., Gothenberg, 1301/4).

War Diary. 4.4.40.
Thursday.

German Merchant Ships.

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FRIGGA — Passed Haugesund southwards night of 3-4/4 with ore (D.D.I.C. 2135/4. Haugesund 1255/4.

2 ships. — Passed southbound 1800/3 (N.C.S.O. Aalsund 1100/4)

BOCHENHEIM — Passed Haugesund northwards 0815/4. (D.D.I.C., 2135/4, D.N.I., 1544/5) (Haugesund, 1050/5).

P.C.270. — German trawler, laden, passed Haugesund northwards 0945/4. (D.D.I.C., 2135/4).

HERO — Is at Bergen. (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1332/4).

NORDWEST)
NORDFELS)
MARIENBURG) — Left Gothenberg (N.C.SO., Gothenberg, 1301/4).

War Diary. 4.4.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Submarines. Your 1226/18/3. It having been decided as a Precautionary measure to withdraw submarines from the East Indies and China Stations, and to send them with other slow moving units to the Mediterranean, regretted that your proposal must be deferred for the time being. (Hd. of M., 1915/4 to N.B., Melbourne).

America & West Indies.

Panama Canal. British merchant vessels approaching to burn navigation lights at full brilliancy when within 3 mile limit of territorial waters and flash signal letters as requisite for identification. (C-in-C., A.W.I., 1045/4).

MALAYA Admty 0132/3 and my 1439/2. Most desirable that passengers and stores be landed in U.K. In view of commitments in your 1323/18/3, inportant that return of ship to Halifax should not be unduly delayed by refit at Malta. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 0931/4).

Ice report. (S.C.N.O., Halifax, 1600/4).

HX.33. H.M.S. ASCANIA and French S/M BEVEZIERS to escort. ASCANIA to return Halifax and BEVEZIERS to proceed Brest (F.O.C. 3.B.S., 1347/4) NSHQ., Ottawa 1153/4 1203/4. See China.

East Indies.

LUCIA To sail for Bombay and Aden as soon as practicable after arrival of MEDWAY due at Colombo about 14/4. (C-in-C., E.I. 0713Z/4).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

FRANCONIA — D.S.T's 0011/2. Supplies of water, meat, etc., for FRANCONIA. Ship would be at 14 days' notice for steam. (F.O.C.N.A., 1820/4).

South Atlantic.

Ore cargoes. — My 1023/26. Intercepted letter states cargoes were shipped to Tampico due to ore being of a particularly complex nature that can only be smelted in certain works. (S.O.1. Capetown, 9043/4).

Mediterranean.

Adriatic Activity. — Grateful for any explanation to account for rumours of British naval activity in Adriatic. (D.N.I. to C-in-C., Med., 2333/4). Reply 5/4.

EASTLEA — Concel my 1158/4. (F.S.T.O., Egypt to D. of ST., 2017/4).

STAMPALIA — Italian 1228 tons is believed to be going to sail 5/4 from Dubrovnik for Venice with 200 tons of copper destined for Germany (Malta 1440/4).

China.

Exchange of berths. — Your 0452/29. Concur in use of British naval buoys by U.S. cruiser AUGUSTA. To forestal similar requests from Japan request remarks on ~~Mem~~ desirability of an exchange of berths with the Americans for period of the war. (Hd. of M., 0329/4).

Neutral Warships. — Italian and Japanese warship positions (Capt. O.S. SINGAPORE, 0919Z/4.

Contraband. — Reports have been received that attempts are being made to ship tropical produce, notably coffee and rubber, to Germany via Vladivostock and the Tran-Siberian Railway (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1153/4, 1203/4).

War Diary. 4.4.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Iron Ore traffic. Reported in Press that Germany has concelled all immediate consignments of iron ore from the norther Swedish iron mines to Narvik on account of sinking of HEDDERNHEIM and E.H. STINNES. Reported in Press 6/4 that consignments are not being sent to Lulea.

German Fleet. Preliminary report of air reconnaissance carried out a.m/4 states 2 capital ships of GNEISENAU class were sighted in Wilhelmshaven Roads at 0605 (I.C.0410/40) (D.C., 1214/4) See 5/4.
On evening of 1/4 2 destroyers and 3 torpedo boats believed German were reported off Arendal. (C.3). (I.C.0410/40).
In the early morning of 2/4 a German destroyer numbered 12 (MAX SCHULTZ ?) was reported off Lister course S (C.3) (I.C.0410/40).

Passage through Great Belt. Norddeich broadcast that the pilot service in the Great Belt has been restored during daylight hours. (I.C.0410/40).

Horns Reef Patrol. German traffic Jutland Coast considerably reduced. Horns Reef patrol ~~m~~maintained at 6 to 10 trawlers. (Consul, Esbjerg, 1140/4).

German warship. French Naval authorities report 2 trawlers, 1 S/M, 2 destroyers 9 miles off Texel steering W. at 0500 to-day Friday (V.A. Dover, 1615/4).
? should be 1615/5.

Casualties and Defects.

SALADIN Damage to plating while going alongside. Is being docked, estimated complete 11/4. (C-in-C., W.A., 1514/4).

SIGNE Raft apparently from Swedish SIGNE containing one corpse was found 6 miles N.N.E of Fair Isle., by M.V. GOOD SHEPHERD and taken to Fair Isle. (A.C.O.S. 1823/4).

War Diary. 4.4.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous. (Contd.).

German ship ashore.	Near Frederichshavn (N.A. Copenhagen, 1935/4). Has now left (N.A. Copenhagen, 1901/5).

WEATHER.

0500	Wind	Visibility	Outlook.
North Sea.	S, strong at Shetlands W, moderate elsewhere.	Good	Veering & moderating
Channel	W, fresh or strong.	Good	Wind backing S. or S.E.
W.Approaches.	W. fresh	Good	Wind backing S. or S.E.
Horns Reef.	E. moderate.	Moderate	Wind veering.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (Contd).

F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1905/4, no mines found.
F.O.I.C. Portland, 1830/4, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1830/4.
C-in-C., Portsmouth 1828/4, no sweeping.

Operation Wilfred. See operations volume.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Positions. (D.C., 1911/4) (C-in-C., Nore, 0550/4).

OA.123 G.F. Number and speed. (N.C.S.O., Thames, 1256/4).

HN.24 Route in case of separation (D.T.D.1334/3).

HX.30 Orders to Escort (C-in-C., W.A., 1043/4).

HN.23 B. Arrived 1000 (N.C.S.O., Methil 1028/4).

OA.122 Additions. (W.C.S.O. Thames, 1149/4).

OB.123.G.F. Sailed 2140/4, escort ROCHESTER, VIMY (N.C.S.O., Mersey, 2227/4).

Mail Interception. My 2009/3. Important that postal documents relating to the whole mail be allowed to remain in the ship, etc. (D.E.W.D., 1925/4).

N.E. Coast, fishing. Request Admiralty ruling on subject of prohibition of small inshore fishing boat and pleasure motor boats on N.E. Coast (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1111/4).

Dutch Cargoes. In ALCYONE and TJIKANDI now at Ramsgate to be seized. (T.D.T., 1751/4).

USS CHARLES McCORMICK. My 1737/2. Whole cargo may be released provided unnavicerted items consist only of following (list). (D.E.W.D., 1338/4).

Miscellaneous.

Norwegian Neutrality. I learn that Norway will resist by armed force to prevent violation of their neutrality for belligerent purposes. (D.D.I.C. 1800/4 to C-in-C H.F. etc).

NOORDWIJK Your 1418/4 NOORDWIJK loaded grain at Rosario and San Nicholas and sailed 3/4 for Rotterdam. May call at St. Vincent (C. Verde). Nothing unusual observed whilst ship in Rio de la Plata (S.O.(I), Montevideo, 2058/4).

HOME COMMANDS.

Air. (Contd.).

Four destroyers in the Roads also bombed by another aircraft, probably without success. (Bomber Command, 1135/4, 2330/4, 0330/5).
Further reconnaissance in the Bight and up Danish coast to be carried out a.m. 5/4 by both Bomber and Coastal Commands.

Possible Mining. Reports received suggest enemy A/C may be dropping a form of floating mine. If any such objects sighted, to be treated as dangerous. (V.A.S., 2219/4).

Enemy Air Activity. Very much less compared with previous days. Usual meteorological flight carried out in forenoon, reaching northwards to a position 75'E. of Kinnaired Head, and a further flight appears to have taken place in afternoon.
An enemy aircraft approached N.E. coast between the Tyne and Spurn Point, presumably on reconnaissance, between 1400 and 1500, but no reports of attacks on shipping have been received.
Aircraft reported by S.S. EUMAEUS at 1431, 45'E. of May Isle, seen to drop objects into the sea.
There was other coastal reconnaissance and what are assumed to be training flightsin the Bight during the afternoon.

Water-Borne Balloons. Repeating Air Ministry 2000/3. (D. of L.D., 1344/4).

Mining.

Operation in Bight. NARWHAL is carrying out a minelaying operation in Heligoland Bight.

Mining from aircraft. (See Air).

Mines Exploded. According to press report fishing cutter DAGMAR exploded 3 mines 2300 47 miles from Esbjerg, (I.C. 0410/40), 46 miles W.S.W, Graadyb Bar (I.C.0412/40). A magnetic mine was exploded in 52°47'N, 1°57'E in QZ.152. This is in the old coastal channel near where IONIAN (29/11/39) and WILLOWPOOL (10/12/39) were mined (I.C.0410/40). (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1920/4).
Grimsby trawler RUSSEL exploded a mine in her trawl in 53°50'N, 2°25'E. (I.C., 0411/40).

Sweeping Reports. 1 mine cut 5.2 miles Cromer Knoll Lt. V. (F.O., Humber, 2213/4). F.O.I.C., Tyne, 2134/4. F.O.I.C Harwich, 2027/4. C-in-C., Rosyth 2011/4, 1901/4, V.A. Dover, 2132/4, mine cut, 1 exploded in sweep, black conical buoy recovered.
10th M.S.F. reports mines cut in portions near "S" buoy. Traffic diverted to pass ½ a mile south of "S" buoy. (V.A. Dover, 1401/4).
N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1930/4, weather unsuitable.

War Diary. 4.4.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Home Fleet. All capital ships in harbour except WARSPITE, which left Scapa at 2130/3 for Clyde on her way to Mediterranean.
Except for PENELOPE, covering Norwegian convoy, all cruisers taking part in Plan Wilfred and Plan R.4 have arrived at their sailing ports.
BIRMINGHAM and 2 destroyers are off Norwegian coast, operating against German merchant shipping and fishing trawlers.

Northern Patrol. Orkneys to Faroes, trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland, 7 A.M.C.'s.
Denmark Strait, 2 A.M.C.'s.

Close Range A.A. guns. C.S.2 1635/27, ships of 2nd C.S. being fitted with close range A.A. guns. I entirely agree. (C-in-C H.F. 1432/4).

S/M's. Positions 0600/5 (D.C., 2028/4, 0043/5, V.A.(S), 1901/4). Warning to SEALION and SUNFISH of route of neutral convoys. (V.A.(S) 1932/4).

Operations.

Operation D.V. Postponed 3 days. (C-in-C., H.F. 1146/4).

S/M's on patrol. Object of S/M's on patrol north of 55°N is to attack and then report enemy transports and warships. When transports are encountered escorted by warships it is more important to attack transports. (R.A.(S), 1931/4).

Operation WILFRED. See Operations volume.

Air.

Unknown number A/C 60 east of Harwich course S.W. at 0800 (C-in-C., Nore, 0817/4).

German A/C wreck. Salvage vessel DRUDGE arrived Blyth with wreck of German A/C. (F.O. I.C., Tyne, 1215/4, 2317/4)

Enemy Air Activity. Indications of enemy air activity developing in North Sea. (D.C. 1643/4).
1 A/C seen to drop objects 56°7'N., 2°47'W. (EUMAEUS, 1434/4).

British Air Activity. Normal patrols flown.
At 0600, bomber aircraft over Wilhelmshaven sighted two ships at anchor, thought to have been SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.
At 1713, one out of six bomber aircraft which had been sent to attack these ships sighted two large vessels of unequal size, possibly cruisers, in Schillig Roads. Four bombs dropped, no hits

/observed.

War Diary. 5. 4. 40.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

Submarines reported.

If not out for minelaying it is possible that the U-boat or U-boats off Fair Island Channel on 1st and 2nd April reported convoys for aircraft to attack on the next day, and that the U-boat reported by aircraft in 61° 40' N., 2° 24' E. at 1453/4 may be there for the same purpose. No other reliable reports. (I.C., 0411/40). (D.D.I.C. 1230/5).

0 600 — 53° 2' N. 4° 30' E. (9 miles from Texel) 1,250 ton submarine with 2 petrol vessels and 1 torpedo craft, course West. (I.C.O. 412/40).

0 600 — Report received from High Commissioner, Dublin that a U-boat was in Dingle Bay, S.W. Eire. Destroyers searched without result. (D.C.N.S.214,C.in C., W.A. 1010/5).

2220 — By D.F. 54° 20' N. 4° 57' W. C/T of U.-boat reported by s.s. BERYL course E. by S. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1207/6 N.O.I.C., Liverpool 1240/6).

North Atlantic.

2030 — 36° 54' N. 10° 5' W. Submarine sighted on surface. French report. Doubtful (F.O.C.N.A. 1936/6).

1057 — Bombs were dropped by an a/c on oil track 70 miles E. of Orkneys Two destroyers proceeded to hunt (D.C.N.S.214,AS/WD 214,A/C Duty M. 233 Sqn.1125/5,1020/5, 1040/5) Position LXHI 0008 (A/C 233 Sqn. 1057/5)(A.C.H.Q.intercept 1213 from R.A. (D) 1227/5, No. 18 (R) group H.Q.1640/5.

0840 — UNITY fired 2 torpedoes without success at a submarine in 56° N 6° 35' E. (I.C.0424/40).

War Diary. 5. 4. 40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands. (Continued)

THESEUS	Arrived Trondheim from South (D.S.214).
SEATTLE or ASIEN	German ship, probably SEATTLE or ASIEN off Lindesnaes 1012/5 (D.D.I.C. 1126/5).
Situation.	Estimated positions of German merchant ships on Norwegian Coast at noon 6/4. (D.D.I.C. 811/5).

North Atlantic.

NORD ATLANTIC	Moved to new anchorage 300 yards N.E. of Nordincer. (Consul, Vigo 1833/5).
BRAKE	1500 tons lubricating oil transferred from ANTARKTIS and 360 tons from NORD ATLANTIC.LAPLATA expected to transfer 600 empty drums to BRAKE. (Consul, Vigo, 1833/5).

America and West Indies.

VANCOUVER	At Curacoa. Expected to sail 5/4 or 6/4 (S.O.11) Kingston Jamaica 1831/5).
OSORNO	My 1850/4, has received 300 tons ballast, still loading. Hasalso received 95 tons oil fuel and further stores. Burtcis now full (80(1)Callao 1129/5).

South Atlantic.

GRAF SPEE	Considerable evidence of sabotage being committed since fire (80(1)Montevideo 2241/4).

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War Diary. 5. 4. 1940.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

FRANKENWALD LUBECK FRANKENSTEIN	My 0148/4. Cancel reference to FRANKENWALD. Ship now reported to be LUBECK with name changed to FRANKENSTEIN (D.D.I.C(216/5)
HERO	Left Bergen southbound with fish 5/4. (D.D.I.C. 1216/5) (N.C.S.O. Bergen 0950/5). To submarines on patrol, &c. (D.C. 2131/5) Passed southwards (Haryesund 1845/5).
EMSHORN	Sailed southward 1915(Haryesund 1940/5)(N.C.S.O. Bergen 1337/5).
SEATTLE	Passed Aalsund 1200/5 southwards (N.C.S.O. Aalsund 1900/5).
DERINDJE	Loaded from north, at present anchored in fairway (Haryesund 1845/5).
ALSTER	Reported 1050/5 carried approx. 400 tons of coke on deck (Haryesund, 1845/5. Passed Haryesund (D.N.I.1544/5)(Haryesund 1050/5).
SIVAS	Sailed from Gothenburg(Gothenburg 1630/5)(D.C., 2036/5).
GAUSS	- - - - - - - - -
ANDROMEDA	Arrived Gothenburg (Gothenburg 1630/5)(D.C.2036/5).
MARTHA HENDRIK FISSER	Loading with ore(A.N.A.Stockholm 1324/5).
AFRIKA	Loaded with ore (A.N.A.Stockholm 1324/5).
ASIEN	Possibly SEATTLE or ASIEN off Lindesnaes at 1012/5.(D.D.I.C. 1126/5).

War Diary. 5. 4. 40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

Reply to 2026/29/3. Impossible to provide adequate forces to meet every possible contingency. At present no confirmation that armed raiders are out. Should situation develop unfavourably question of Australian convoy will require careful review. Aden defences still under consideration. Defence of Banian oilfields not a commitment at the moment (D.O.D.(F)1915/5 to C.E.1).

China.

TAI YANG — Norwegian, Pavang reports she sailed for Aden 3/4 loaded 600 tons magnesite out of German RHEINLAND. Cl.(S.O.(1) Singapore 0913/5).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Boom Defences. No further action to be taken locally re boom vessels LAOMEDON, BURGONET and MAGNET, as it is feared they must be regarded as having status of warships. Consideration being given to possibility of laying defences as part of contract work connected with Boom Depot. (Hd.of M. to C.in C., Med., 1918/5).

America and West Indies.

Canadian Destroyer Construction. Cabinet have approved construction of 2 Fribas (N.S.HQ. Ottowa 1003/5).

Bermuda as Convoy assembly Port. Admiralty 2021/2, C.in C., A.W. 10130/5 (proposal to use Bermuda as additional convoy assembly port for vessels homeward bound from West Indies). Concur this is desirable. Details (C.in C., A.W. I 0130/5). Facilities &c. Bas could be put into force at 14 days notice provided ships arrive by daylight only and necleus staff lent from Halifax &c. (C.in C., A.W. 2115/5).

Canadian Troops. 2119 will be ready to commence embarkation at Halifax 3/5.Request transports may be arranged (C.N.S. Ottawa 1207/5).

East Indies.

GERUSALEMME Removal of mails. Your 1822/1. Italian GERUSALEMME Genoa to Kisrimaya via Monica Aden DANTE MOGADISCID carrying mails. Master with support of Italian Consul refused to allow removal or examination of mails. Ship detained pending instructions. (C.C.S.O. Aden 20522/5).

War Diary. 5. 4. 40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Forces. Positions 1300/5. (D.C., 0044/5).

French Convoys. Positions (D.C., 0309/6).

South Atlantic.

Trawler Building in Brazil. Your 1529/4 and D.N.I's (810/1/4 and 1138/7/2. Co-operate with Garthwaite or his representative. Intermediary will be essential to obtain export licences as Admiralty's name cannot be used. (D.S.V.P. to A.N.A., Rio de Janeiro 1451/5). Refers to building of wooden trawlers in Brazil.

HAWKINS
QUEEN OF BERMUDA } HAWKINS leaves Rio Grande do Sul area a.m. 7/4. Refuel Montevideo. QUEEN OF BERMUDA take over responsibility of intercepting RIO GRANDE if she sails. (R.A.S.A.D. 12322/5).

Mediterranean.

ANKARA interception. Your 1357/3, German ships trading in Adriatic. Present position does not permit of suggested action. (Hd.of M. to C.in C., Med., 1250/5).

Adriatic situation. There has been no British naval activity in Adriatic. One cruiser has been patrolling Straits of Otsanto since 24/3, but her northern limit is 40° 45'N. Rumours may be caused by wishful thinking in regard to German merchant ships loading bauxite at Dubrovnik. Fact that they are doing so has appeared in Egyptian Press. (C.in C., Med., 03/5).

EASTLEA. Your 2017/4. Cannot agree without full cargo, etc. (D. of S.T. 1358/5 to P.S. & O. Egypt). Admiralty have cancelled cement from Haifa and EASTLEA may be ordered Alexandria for military stores (D. of S.T. 1922/5).

War Diary. 5. 4. 40.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

S.S. SIGNE	Raft with one corpse, apparently from Finnish SIGNE has been found at Fair 1. SIGNE should have joined convoy HN 23A (which sailed from Bergen 30/3) but failed to do so, or got separated in gale (D.S.213)
	Note. At 2315/1 SIKH reported an unexplained explosion soon after the presence of an enemy submarine had been suspected at 2011/1. The SIGNE was probably following course set for convoy, which at 0025/2 had to make an emergency turn in order to clear Fair 1. (D.S.216)(SIKH 0005/2).
BJORNHAUG	Norwegian 443 tons (wooden) grounded on Balconine Brigs early am/5 and was beached o550/4. Abandoned and breaking up. Not in convoy (C.in C. Rosyth 1829/5).
Motor Launch 114RFC	Asking for whereabouts. Sailed Mostyn Bay for Lee 30/3 (N.A.S. 1044/5).
M.T.B. No. 18.	In trouble 025° Corton Lt. V. 4 miles (80 5", M/SF 1330/5).

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Continued)

Units off Texel.	9 miles from Texel at 0500 G.M.T. to-day 1 submarine 250 tons, 2 patrol craft, one torpedo craft, steering west (A.2)(N.A. Hague, 1235/5). Reported as C2 (D.D.I.C. 1810/5). Reported by French Naval Authorities (V.A. Dover 1615/5).
Minesweeping.	German sweeping operations of southern approach &c. Belts commenced a few days ago (N.A. Copenhagen 1901/5).
German Minefield.	Report that Swedish s.s. BENGT STURE night 4/5 April coming from German harbour, and tug, with 3 dredgers from Kiel were carried by drift ice into German minefield off Falsterbo. BENGT STURE apparently driven right through without damage (A.N.A. Stockholm 1555/5 D.N.I. 1846/6). Still icebound (A.N.A. Stockholm 1242/7).
Great Belt.	Opened for Traffic 5/4 (D.C.N.S. 1259/7).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Continued)

German Coke. A number of Scandinavian ships at Antwerp are reported to be loading German coke for Scandinavian ports (N.L.S.O. Antwerp 1125/5. Information of these ships is required (D.N.I. 2039/5).

Miscellaneous.

Suspicious Vessels. Dutch skoot MENCE deleted (Hd. of M. 2045/5).

Norwegian patrols. Norwegian monitor put searchlights on TREWORLAS position Christiansund North 63°10' N. 7° 50'E. (N.I.S.O. Aalsund 1145/5).

Asking whereabouts of coast defence ships NORGE and EIDSVOLD. Reported sailed South from Tromso 1/4. (D.N.I.1872/5).

Weather.

	Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea, N.E.	N.E. Moderate.	Good.
" " S.W.	N.W. Moderate.	Good, except inshore.
Horns Reef.	S.E. Moderate.	Good.
Channel and Western Approaches.	N.W. Moderate.	Good.

Outlook: similar

Enemy Intelligence.

Main Units. Further reconnaissance at Wilhelmshaven p.m. 4/4 showed:-

In Wilhelmshaven Road, 1 battle-cruiser, 1 other ship (battle-cruiser or cruiser), 5 destroyers.

In Wilhelmshaven Dockyard, 1 unidentified ship alongside (possibly TIRPITZ).

In Schillig Roads, large number of small ships, which might be auxiliaries or merchant vessels. (I.C., 0411/40) (D.D.I.C. 1349/5).

War Diary. 5.4.40.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Mines Exploded. Mines exploded by BOPDE - 2 on 31/3, 2 on 1/4, between 1 and 4 miles from Sunk Lt. V. (C.in C. Nore 1610/5).

BORDE in hand for docking and repairs (A.S. Chatham 1537/5).

Holman Projectors. Supply to 7th and 8th M.S. Flotillas (D.M.S. 1330/5).

Mines Reported. 2 moored mines 51° 53' 45" N., 01° 39' 40" E. (Capt. (S)3, 1319/5).

Shipping.

Convoys. Positions (D.C. 1835/5).
H.N.24, 40 ships, escorted by 4 destroyers, an A.A. cruiser and 2 cruisers, is approaching Shetlands.
6 ships due Cape Wrath p.m. 6/4 (D.T.D. 1314/5).

OAGF 123 ABERDEEN left with Portsmouth Section (C.in C. Portsmouth 0440/5) Additions (N.C.S.O Thames 1143/5).
SL 28 Ocean route (D.T.D.1050/5).
SL 24 Successful " "
SL 25 8 hours late " "
OB 123 GF Destination &c.(C.in C.,W.A. 1103/5).
HX 29 Arrived (N.C.S.O. Ramsgate 1040/5) R. of P., AUSONIA 21/3 to 2/4 (M.06756/40).
HG 26 Route (D.T.D., 1243/5)

ON 25 Sailed 1200/5 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1245/5 C.in C. Rosyth 1705/5)
HX 30 Arrival will be one day earlier than originally stated (C.in C., W.A. 1753/5).
NS One Asking for outward route north of 55° 9' N. 5° 45' 30"W. (C.in C., W.A. 1259/5) Reply (N.O.i/c Greenock 1754/6).

Military Transports. Programme (D.O.D(H) 1932/5, 1816/6 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation WILFRED — R. H.F. Merno 01340/397 of 31/3. Every endeavour must be made to avoid an incident with Norwegian patrol ships etc. (In 52 1925/5).

Operation WILFRED will take place 8/4. RENOWN to support Force W.V. Various arrangements (C.in C. H.F. 1229/5).

Air

Training at Toulon. — Transfer of deck landing training from Donibristle to Hyeres, Toulon, approved and is to be completed by 1st May. Administrative arrangements. (Hd. of Air Branch, 1031/5).

False report. — Attack reported on convoy HN24 at 1445 subsequently proved to be friendly a/cs (D.C.N.S.214)

Enemy reconnaissance of Norwegian coast. — Foreign plane, suspected German, on 4/4, made intensive flight over west coast of Norway, including Trondjheim and Trondelag. Route was similar to that flown by unknown plane 29/3 (N.A. Oslo 1600/5).

Mining

Operation F.D.2. — Understood mines will not be available at Immingham until 11/4. Intend therefore that S.6 directs NARWHAL to return Blyth to make good defect to minecasing door and in view of state of moon to carry out operation F.D.2. about 13/4. (V.A.S., 1512/5).

Sweeping reports. — 10th M.S.F. abandoned 1100, strong northerly winds. (V.A. Dover 2001/5).
Adverse weather (201 C Harwich 1944/5)
A.C.O.S., 1935/5, C.in C. Rosyth 1915/5
1913/5, F.O.I.C. Greenock (801/5).
No mines cut (201 C Tyne 1924/5)
Nothing to report (20 Humber 1915/5)
No sweeping (C.in C. Portsmouth 1730/5)
No sweeping, weather (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1615/5).

War Diary. 5. 4. 1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet. WARSPITE, escorted by 4 destroyers, due to arrive Clyde early this morning.

BIRMINGHAM and two destroyers are off Norwegian coast operating against German merchant shipping and fishing trawlers.

Northern Patrol.

Orkneys to Faroes,	trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland,	7 A.M.C.'s.
Denmark Strait,	2 A.M.C.'s.

Submarines. Positions 0600/6 (D.C.2139/5) (R.A.S.1629/5).

Operations.

ALTMARK — Your 2303/4. From N.A. I learn from Naval source that after ALTMARK affair 80 of escorting T.b's was criticised for failing to take action to prevent COSSACK breaking Norwegian neutrality (N.A. Oslo 0945/5)(D.N. 1230/4 asked source of the information in his 1745/3 and its grade).

Submarines on patrol.
SUNFISH
SEALION
— Informing them of route followed by neutral convoys. R.A.(S)'s 1931/4, enemy transports and warships can be attacked inside territorial waters (Capt. (S)3 1431/5).

Enemy units. Course and distance made good by enemy since 1040 55.33. Enemy's course and speed 360° 2 knots. (Duty M, 223 Sqdn. 1230/5, 1245/5).

Plan R.4 A.L.M/PD08544/40 of 4/4 just received. Request immediate confirmation that Blue Cruisers now proceed to Smyrna (FOCICS 1447/5).

War Diary

6. 4. 40.
Saturday

U BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

NAVARRA — Norwegian (2118 tons) torpedoed 0230/6 without warning 59° N., 4° W. (115° Sule Skerry 15 miles). Sank in 3 minutes.

14 survivors landed Kirkwall 2209/6. All 3 officers and 9 men lost. (D.C., 0741/7). The boat with 14 survivors was sighted am/6 by a C.C. aircraft who directed Finnish S.S. ATLAS to position. One of the two ship's boats when being lowered capsized and men were flung into the water, onl y eventually saved. The U-boat was in vicinity but made no attempt at rescue. (Press Assn. N.O.I.C., Kirkwall, 2220/6, C. in C., Rosyth, 1034/6. Cancel my 1034, men have been rescued. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1056/6)(A.S.W.D.,216).

Submarines Reported

Estimated dispositions.

Probably U-boats still near Fair Is. Channel. Unconfirmed report of submarine at 1800/3 64:30 N., 10° E. Course S. (D.D.I.C. 1227/6.

0200 — 45:5 N., 7:54 W. Southbound (Landsend Radio 1203/6 recd. 1200 GMT from S.S.CRETARCHON).

U.21 — Where is she interned? Where is crew interned? What is state of vessel etc? (D.N.I., 1242/6).

Admiralty 1242. At Marviken. Ratio of crew not required for upkeep at Kongsvinger. Thrust blocks removed and armament and stores landed. Vessel to be in a laid-up state. (N.A., Oslo, 1525/6).

South Atlantic.

2100 — 35:40 N., 9:40 W. Submerged submarine sighted by French minesweeper COMMANDANT DU BOC. Doubtful I.C. 0413/40, COMMANDANT DU BOC 2344/6).

War Diary

6. 4. 40.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

1740 — A/S Trawler RUBY attacked contact in Liverpool Bay 53:32½ N., 3:48½ W. (010° Gt. Orme's Hd. 12 miles). Negative result (N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1901/6).

0130 — 3 attacks by VALENTINE on contact approx. 120° 12 miles Eddystone. Found non-sub. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1208/6).

War Diary

6. 4. 40.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

China

My 2355/2 (a) Attachment delayed owing to legal difficulties. Now reliably reported (A 1) from Holland 11 ships will be released tonight Saturday and may sail shortly (D.D.I.C. 1619/6 to C. in C. China).

Rumour that German ships in N.E.I. would proceed to Germany by Artic passage, refuelling at Vladivostock. Arrangements made for icebreaker assistance if required. (C.O.S., Singapore, 0559/6).

War Diary

6. 4. 40.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

ADEL OHLROGGE	Sailed southward 1245 (Haugesund, 1827/6, D.C. 2201/6)
DERINDJE	At Haugesund (D.D.I.C., 1138/6).
HOCHSEE	passed southward loaded 1640 (do).
ANNIE HUGO STINNES 6	due to arrive here to load herring meal (do).
KATTEGAT	reported painted blue-grey (do) passed northwards 0830 loaded, possibly as supply ship. (Haugesund 1020, D.D.I.C. 1305/6).
ERICA HENDRIK FISSER	Sailed from here 2329/6 (N.C.S.O., Rotterdam, 2329/6, D.C. 0310/7) Arrived here 3/4 in ballast, painted to resemble Soviet ship. Likely will sail tonight (N.C.S.O., Rotterdam, 1130/6, D.C. 1538/6).
KONIGSBERG) JOHANNA) GEORG L.M. RUSS)	Arrived with general cargo (N.C.S.O., Gottenberg, 1259/6, D.D.I.C. 1832/6).
KIEL	Passed Aalsund 0500/6 southward. Description (N.C.S.O. Aalsund 1000/6, D.D.I.C., 1305/6).
RUHRORT	Anchored Bergen today after steaming (?round) British S.S. FYLINGDALE fitted with degaussing gear (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1045/6, D.D.I.C., 1832/6).
THESEUS	Arrived 6/4 (Trondheim, 1231/6, D.D.I.C, 1832/6).
COBURG	Motor Trawler passed northbound 1330/6 (Tromsoe, 1343/6, D.D.I.C., 1832/6).
LIPPE	Arrived 5/4 (Narvik, 1139/6, D.D.I.C., 1832/6).
Unidentified Trawler	Passed Tromsoe 1000/6 northbound (D.D.I.C. 1832/6).
SEATTLE	Should be off Haugesund 1200/6 and may delay proceeding south until dark. (D.D.I.C. 1138/6).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (continued)

REX-mails removed 568 enemy and 13 samples of neutral sacks of mail and 5 postal packets removed for examination inaccordance with Admiralty 1131/1 (C.C.S.O., Gib. 1400/6).

China.

FALMOUTH R.A. Malaya's 0843/2 (re refitting of DURBAN, COLOMBO, CERES). If you wish FALMOUTH may be retained until situation regarding German ships in NEI is clear. (D.O.D.(F) 1159/6).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Convoys Positions (D.C., 0309/6).

British Convoys Positions, (D.C.1803/6).

South Atlantic

America & West Indies

THOROY — Left Aruba 3/4 cargo 430 drums lubricating oil 3500 tons gas oil for Iceland. Local agent for ship late agent for HAL and Horn Line. Cargo considered unusual . (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, 0844/6).

WYVERN — My 1724/20/3. WYVERN completed loading 5700 tons from RHEIN consisting of scrap metal, scrap rubber, zinc etc. consigned to Japanese ports. Expected to sail from Tampico 7/4 (S.O.(I) Kingston 1711/6).

Halifax convoys — Amended escort programme (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1209/6).

Mediterranean.

WARSPITE — and destroyers, weather permitting, speed of advance to be not less than 16 knots. (1st S.L. 2211/6).

ANKARA — Re my TOO 2120/2. Yugoslav authorities refused ANKARA's request for Naval escort. (A.N.A., Belgrade, THI 1145/6, 2110/7). Left Dubrovnik 2000/6 for Trieste. A.2. (D.C., 0006/7).

War Diary

6. 4. 40.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

NORFOLK	Proposal to maintain her in commission (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 1310/6).
SEA BREEZE	Drifter. JUNITER proceed with all despatch to assist, 10 miles W. of Fair Is. (R.A.(D) H.F., 1132/6). Safe in company with trawler (A.C.O.S., 2150/6, Hatston, 2124/6).

War Diary

6. 4. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Weather

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea (extreme N.)	S, strong to gale.	Mainly good, deteriorating in rain.
North Sea (remaining areas)	Light.	Moderate, local coastal haze.
Horns Reef	E. to N.E., light.	Good.
Channel	Light.	Moderate to good.
W. Approaches	S.W. light.	Moderate, improving.

Enemy Intelligence

Minesweeping	Reported that German minesweeping operations started a few days ago in the "southern approach belts" (I.C. 0413/40).
Great Belt	Opened to through traffic 5/4. 60 vessels passed, mostly German including one group of small 1000 ton vessels north-bound. Navigation marks and light vessels mostly replaced.
Minesweeping	German minesweeping Field X continues.
Transports and LUTZOW	Danish Admiralty state, B.3, Stettin 12 and 15 large transports and LUTZOW now in harbour. Tanks recently observed embarked by night.
U-boats	Number of U-boats sailed North Sea ports 1/4 or 2/4. (N.A. Copenhagen, 1805/6).
Seaplane Base Lehe	Photographs taken 5/4 show that seaplane base at Lehe was incorrect (Hq. Bomber Command, 1930/6).
Enemy Unit	D.F. at 2053 B.S.T. unknown enemy unit using call sigh BCV in 56:40 N., 01:10 E. reliable fix, believed to be an auxiliary craft. (D.C., 2118/6). Futher bearings indicate approx. 120 miles East of signalled position. (D.C. 2225/6).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (continued)

Convoys

Movements 6/4 to 7/4 (C. in C., Rosyth, 2006/6).

HX 33 Route. (C.O.A.C. 1301/6)
Sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O., Halifax, 1302/6). Escort (S.O.I. Halifax, 1330/6).

Ships awaiting Convoy (N.C.S.O., Bergen, 1055/6).

HX 35 Route (D.T.D. 1651/6).

HG 25 Sailing telegram extract (D.T.D., 1042/6).

N.S.I. N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1754/6 see 5/4.

CHARLES R. McCORMICK U.S. ship, reported 400 miles N.W. of Marsten at 1220/6, proceeding towards Bergen. (V.A.N.P., 1300/6).

Miscellaneous.

We have communicated to Norwegian and Swedish Govts. note defining our attitude towards them in consideration of their susceptibility to German and Soviet exploitation and explaining that the Allies would consider following as endangering their vital interests:-

1. Refusal to facilitate Allied efforts to aid Finland if Germany or Russia attack her.

2. Inclusive political agreement between Germany and Norway or Sweden.

3. A Scandinavian alliance providing for acceptance of aid from Germany.

4. Attempt by Soviet to obtain foothold on Atlantic Seaboard.

5. Curtailment by Norway or Sweden of commercial and shipping facilities essential to Allies.

6. German acquisition of resources or facilities in Norway and Sweden disadvantageous to Allies.

(D.N.I. 0021/6).

HOME COMMANDS

Air (continued)

British Aircraft fired at. Apparently by ships in Scapa Flow on 31/3/40. (Air Min. 1009/6).

Mining

Sweeping reports One magnetic mine exploded 52:37:1 N., 1:56.2 E., 217° 1½ miles Cross Sand Lt. V.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2304/6, 1930/6, N.O.I.C., Yarmouth 2030/6).
(This is the first mine located in this area).

Mine presumed British exploded by sweep 3 cables south of Sunk Lt. V. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1930/6).

Mine exploded by M. drifters 140° Newarp Lt. V. 12 miles (N.O.I.C., Yarmouth 1308/6).

Minelaying NARWHAL reports FDI completed (V.A.S. 0906/6).

Mines dangerous to surface craft until 3/5 have been laid within circle of 5 miles radius about BFRU 3735. (D.D.O.D.(M) 1632/6 to C. in C., H.F., C.S.2.).

Operation PB completed. (PRINCESS VICTORIA 1545/6).

Operation WILFRED has been transferred to Operations.

Shipping

Oilers My 1750/23/2 /40 and my 1700/6/4/40. Onward routing of oilers for Scapa Flow will take place from Belfast instead of Liverpool commencing with HX 34 and HGF 26 both sailing about 10/4. (D.T.D., 2023/6).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (continued)

Operation DV — BIRMINGHAM and 2 destroyers operating against German shipping off the Lofoten Is. are about to proceed to southward (0730) to R.V. with RENOWN, to cover operations of light forces (D.C.N.S. 214).

Submarines on Patrol — V.A.(S) 1927/5 (re German merchant ships using Skagerrak and Kattegat) You should not compromise your position to intercept these ships (Capt. (S)3 to SEALION).

Norwegian Dispositions — My 2156/4 para 6. amended. (D.D.I.C. 1643/6) TORDENSKJOLD and HAARFAGRE at Horten 59:25 N., 10:30 E.
NORGE and EIDSVOLD are at Narvik (D.D.I.C. 1909/6).
Norwegian submarines B.1 and B.3 arrived Narvik 6/4 and went alongside Town Jetty at inside berth. (D.C., 1445/6).

Air.

Operations against Enemy warships — 2 Blenheims took off at 0400/6 to locate and bomb enemy warships in the Bight and River Jade; 2 squadrons of bombers standing by to operate against any warships located.

British Patrols — Security Patrol, Borkum. 12 vessels observed 53:45 N., 02:25 E. 2204/5, all lighted. No ships observed in Schillig or Jade Roads owing to complete darkness etc. (H.Q. Bomber Command, 0740/6).

Owing to weather no patrols in operation except S.3, S.9 and escort for HN 24 (C. in C. Rosyth, 0924/6).

Enemy Air Activity — Attack by enemy aircraft may be expected (Nore W/T 1443/6).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (continued)

Operation R.4. continued	Instructions to Commanders of Naval forces for the 4 ports have been approved by H.M. Govt. (D. of P. 1817/6).
Convoy NS 1	Onward route (C. in C., W.A., 1259/5, N.O.I.C., Greenock, 1754/6).
Convoy TP & HTP	Route, speed. Departure 2000D-1. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1549/6).
Convoy NPI, HNPI	Route, speed. Departure 0001 D-1. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1549/6).
BRITISH LADY	Oiler, replaces WAR PINDARI in convoy NO (F.O.C.O.S., 1546/6).
Operation Wilfred	MO 1340/40 Operation orders. Preliminary movements have started. Operations will be carried out 8/4. Description of operation. Ships to be used. Areas where mines to be laid. General plan of operations. (1st S.L. 0008/29). Essential signals. C. in C.H.F. 2351/29/3 D.D.O.D.(M) 1232/30, D.O.D.(H) 1233/30, C. in C. H.F. 1535/31, D.O.D.(H) 2240/31, D.D.O.D.(M) 1408/1, C. in C. H.F. 1014/1, D.O.D.(H) 1414/1, C. in C. H.F. 1046/2, 1st S.L. 1925/5, C. in C. H.F. 2302/2, Capt. D.2 1646/2, C. in C.H.F. 1026/3, F.O.C. 2 C.S. 2203/3, C. in C. H.F. 0023/4, N.A. Oslo 1745/3, (see Miscellaneous), D.O.D.(H) 1851/4, D.D.I.C. 1800/4. (see Miscellaneous), D.S.D. 1535/31/3, D.O.D.(H) 1352/3, (Operation WILFRED will take place 8/4), D.O.D.(H) 1750/2, C. in C. H.F. 2336/4, 1234/5, 1229/5, C. in C. W.A. 2320/5, D.O.D.(H) 2159/5. In order that patrol of WILFRED minefields may become an Allied operation it is desirable that one or more French destroyers should take part in the patrol as soon as possible (D.O.D.(H) 1112/6).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (continued)

Operation R.4 (Continued)

1. Narvik operations (to secure port of Narvik and to go on to Galivare if opportunity arises, in order to deny the Galivare ore fields to Germany).

2. Operation to secure ports of Stavanger, Bergen and Trondheim. (On general lines similar to those previously laid down for force STRATFORD See operation R.3).

Admiralty 0008/29 to C. in C. H.F. There may be reactions in Scandinavia to laying of mines in Norwegian waters. Troops to be held ready to occupy Stavanger, Bergen, Trondheim and ready to land at Narvik. To be known as Plan R.4. Troops will be ready to embark on 5/4.

3 cruisers of 1st C.S. and one of 18th C.S. to arrive Rosyth early 4/4. First 2 battalions of Narvik Force to be ready to sail from Clyde about 7/4 in a liner, accompanied by 2 ARETHUSA class cruisers under Admiral Sir E. Evans, Request you will arrange for cruisers and necessary destroyers to escort. Re oiler, store ships. French contingent included. No force will be landed in Norway until Germans have violated Norwegian territory or clear evidence they intend to do so. In addition to above forces, a striking force to be available at Rosyth from pm/ 3/4 to deal with any seaborne expedition the Germans may send against Norway. Above requirements will entail withdrawal of all cruiser support from Northern Patrol; you may at your discretion withdraw latter temporarily if you think desirable. (1st S.L. 0125/31 to C. in C. H.F.)

Essential signals. D. of P. 1925/2, 1929/2, 1926/2, 1529/3, C. in C., Rosyth 1222/3, D.C.N.S. 1934/3, D. of P. 1309/4, 1302/4, Adm. AURORA 1322/4. D.O.D.(H) 1826/4, D. of P. 1852/4, D.D.I.C. 2156/4, C. in C. H.F. 1203/5, 1155/5, D.O.D.(H) 1317/5, Haugesund 1155/5, C. in C. W.A., 1258/5, C. in C. W.A., 1751/5, F.O.I.C.S. 1447/5, D.D.I.C., 1847/5, 1700/5, D. of P. 1852/5, D.C. 2035/5, D.O.D.(H) 2233/5, D.D.I.C. 0952/6.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

French Forces for Operation R.4. Destroyers FOUDROYANT, BRESTOIS, BOULONNAIS left Cherbourg 0530/6 for Scapa via Irish Sea (D.O.D.(H) 1211/6). Cruiser EMILE BERTIN and destroyers TARTU, MAILLE BREZE left Brest am/6 for Scapa via Irish Sea. (C. in C. W.A 1453/6, D.C.N.S. 214).

Northern Patrol Orkneys to Faroes - trawlers.
Faroes to Iceland - 7 A.M.C.'s.
Denmark Strait - 2 A.M.C's.

Submarines 0600/7 (V.A.(S) 1646/6, D.C. 2016/6).

BURZA — Her low speed and endurance. Both of the other Polish destroyers are said to be good for 38 knots, endurance 2500 miles at 15 knots. (C.S.2, 1235/6).

GLOWWORM — Failed to regain touch with RENOWN after dropping back to search for man overboard at 0645. Have no operational orders, so whereabouts of unit taking part unknown. Unless I receive R.V. propose to return to Scapa Flow, my position 17413 QZS 22 course 205°, making good 7 knots (GLOWWORM, 1830/6); giving her RENOWN's position and ordering her to rejoin 2000/7 (C. in C., H.F., 2211/6 to GLOWWORM).

Operations

Operation R.4 C.O.S. (40) 269(S) also W.P. (40)115. 31 March 1940.

Summarises possible German reactions to recent decision of Supreme War Council to lay mines in Norwegian territorial waters, precautionary and countermeasures which we should be prepared to take, and forces we should hold ready for the purpose.

Plans and preparations are to be made for operations, on assumption that Norwegian co-operation will be forthcoming.

(continued)

War Diary

7. 4. 40.

Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

S/ms. Reported

Ten U-boats reported to have passed Great Belt northwards (I.C. 0415/40).

1107 51° 25' N. 4° 5' W. by aircraft, course E. (I.C. 0413/40). MONTROSE sent to investigate. Unlikely this was s/m (I.C. 0414/40) (C. in C. W.A. 1153/7, 1203/7).

2235 West of Hebrides. Position indefinite. (I.C. 0414/40) (C. in

2106 By D/F 56° 40' N. 5° E. Unreliable fix. (D.C. 2133/7).

1340 Sighted by ULSTER MONARCH in 50° 06' N., 00° 32' W., reliable fix (C. in C. Portsmouth 1739/7) WINDSOR and WILDSWAN ordered to attack. (C. in C.W.A. 1815/7) (WINDSOR 1930/7). Further information shows report unreliable. (C. in C. W.A. 2208/7).

1420 Reported by naval unit BQHI 0014 (Summary H.Q. C.C. 1720/8).

S/ms. Attacked

1420 SOUTHAMPTON d/cd. a contact 61° N. 0° 47' N. No result. (I.C. 0414/40) (C.S.18 1441/7) (A.S.W.D. 216).

1400 FOLKESTONE attacked contact 51° 53' N. 6° W. (I.C. 0414/40). She was escorting a convoy, one ship of which had reported sighting a suspicious object. Contact was lost at 2345/7. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN also searched without success. (A.S.W.D. 217) (FOLKESTONE 1400/7).

War Diary

7. 4. 40.
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

SEATTLE	Sailed southwards 1500. Weather conditions unfit to proceed inside Sivegruns 58° 15' N. 6° 32' E. (D.D.I.C. 1946/7, Haugesund 1550/7). Arrived from north 1100/7 (D.D.I.C. 1512/7, Haugesund 1111/7).
CURITYBA	in ballast grounded at 1700 North Helsingborg 3 Danish tugs attempting salvage (N.A. Copenhagen 2358/7)
LEVENTE	passed northward 133° (Haugesund 1345/7, D.D.I.C. 1640/7).
NEIDENFELS	Believed (C.O.) passed through here 1330/7 westward in ballast (Throp, Arendal 1805/7).

War Diary

7. 4. 40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Convoy protection — Asking for results of lessons learnt from attacks by aircraft and submarines on convoys. (C. in C.E.I. 0359Z/7)

GERUSALEMME, ERITREA, RAMB III — Surrendered mails under protest (C.C.S.O. Aden 1532Z/7).

China

FALMOUTH — Your 1159/6. Intend to retain FALMOUTH for the present (C. in C. China 0245Z/7).

War Diary. 7.4.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Positions. 1200/7. (D.C. L220/7.

Ocean Convoys. D.C. 1836/7.

South Atlantic.

GRAF SPEE. Officially announced that officers, W.Os. and N.C.Os. will be interned on island of Martian Garcia in Plate estuary. Officers had refused to give parole. Argentine decision follows escape last week of a Captain and two Lieutenants.of GRAF SPEE and failure of 25 sailors to return gtom leave given them during their detention. (B.B.C.).

Mediterranean.

German S/ms. and Mines. Reported that Rumanian Minister informed Greek N.A. and Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that information had reached Bucharest that S/ms. in sections and magnetic mines were on way down Danube in German barges. In Bucharest it was supposed their destination was Varna, but Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs was of opinion they were more probably being sent to Odessa. (N. I. D. 19).

British Mine. Reported by Rome press picked up near Genoa. Asking for particulars. (D.N.I. 1552/7).

N.O.I.C. Haifa. Duties extended to include advice on naval control, contraband control, and security at Jaffa and Tel Aviv. (C. in C. Med., 1159/7).

East ...

War Diary.

7.4.40.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

AMELIA LAURO — Bombed by a/c. 7/3, abandoned and anchored in Yarmouth Roads, has been towed to Immingham.

FOREIGN ...

War Diary. 7.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

BLUCHER,
LEIPZIG,
1 heavy cruiser,
3 destroyers.

N.A. Copenhagen at 1400 sighted south Gedjser, one believed heavy cruiser, course W. evidently doing inclination exercise with ship out of sight.
About 1700 sighted BLUCHER 6 miles off coast north Fefrontin, course W. preceeded at distance by warship, appearance SCHLESWIG.
N.A's. position 54°40'N. 11°21'E.
(N.A. Copenhagen 2358/7, 1130/8, D.C.0320/8).
Passed to S. and A. Area A., Hq. C.C. with addition :-
Similar force now passing northwards off Moen through Sound at 1100, large concentration trawlers North Kattgat. A.1.
D.D.I.C. 1435/8.

SCHARNHORST,
pocket battleship,
3 cruisers,
12 destroyers.

A/C report 2 cruisers, 1 large ship, possibly SCHARNHORST class, 10 destroyers DKRU 4810 course 320 at 1325.
(D.C. 1720/7 to ships and authorities in Area A.).
My 1720/7. Further A/C reports indicate enemy forces are 1 SCHARNHORST, 1 pocket battleship, 3 LEIPZIG class cruisers, 12 destroyers course 335°.
(D.C. 1817/7 to same).
Photographs confirm that one ship was GNEISENAU Class.
(D.C. 2057/7).

CASUALTIES ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

1253/7 — 3 destroyers 80 miles W. of Lynvig (56°18'N. 5°48'E.) course S.
This force was subsequently shadowed until 1428, when they were in position 12 miles W. of Horns Reef.
(I.C. 0414/40). (Donibristle 1835/7).

1322 }
1325 } — A force, probably consisting of GNEISENAU, 2 6" cruisers and about 12 destroyers, and possibly either HIPPER class or pocket battleship (65 miles W. of Thyboron) 56°48' N. 6°10' E. steering 320°. Two bombing attacks were carried out on this force. (Hq. Bomber Cmd. 1820/7, 2000/7, I.C. 0414/40).
No hits claimed. (D.C. 2102/7).
Pocket battleship now believed to be merchant ship in company. (D.C. 0805/8).

1700 — At Kiel :-

Germaina Yard. 1 8" cruiser (probably PRINZ EUGEN), 1 s/m apparently 1000 tons, 2 S/ms apparently 740 tons.

Deutsche Werke. NURNBERG, A/C carrier GRAF ZEPPELIN, 1 tanker ALTMARK class.

Inner Harbour. GRILLE (Adty. yacht), 1 T.B., 1 escort vessel.

Arsenal Harbour. 1 tanker ALTMARK type but probably larger, target ship ZAHRINGEN.

In midstream. SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, SCHLESIEN.

Kiel Bay. LEIPZIG apparently proceeding slowly towards Kiel harbour.

(I.C. 0414/40, D.D.I.C. 1322/8, 1315/7).

German Expedition. — Recent reports suggest a German expedition is being prepared. Report from Copenhagen 1 division in 10 ships ordered to land at Narvik 8/4 with simultaneous occupation of Jutland. Sweden to be left alone. Moderates said to be opposing plan. All these reports are doubtful. (D.C.N.S. 1259/7).
It seems possible that this report may be true and German forces are on way to Narvik.
(D.C.N.S. 1100/8 to C. in C. H.F.,F.O.C.B.C.S.).

BLUCHER ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

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(D.C.N.S. 1100/8 to C. in C. H.F.,F.O.C.B.C.S.).

BLUCHER ...

War Diary, 7.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

A/c reports night 6/7.

(a) At 2230/6 over Schemforde, north of Kiel, intense shipping activity. 6 wharves brilliantly lit by arc lamps.

(b) At 2335/6 a ship, possibly battleship, 20 miles N. if Heligoland, course N. A Coastal Command Battleflight of 3 Hudsons left at 0445/7 to search for her. (Hq. Bomber Cmd. 0410/7).

(c) At 2330/6 a warship in Jade River. A/c lost her in darkness and was unable to bomb. Bomber Command did not send bombers to attack her at dawn as weather was too clear and there were no clouds for them to hide in. (Hq. Bomber Cmd. 0355/7).

(d) At 0145/7 about 50 ships 50 miles N. of Terschilling, reported as a "convoy" burning navigation lights, course west, but were probably Dutch fishing vessels. Coastal Command are investigating. (D.C.N.S. 216, Hq. Bomber Cmd. 0510/7).

Photographic reconnaissance of Wilhelmshaven 1730/6 showed the following German warships to be present :-

Wilhelmshaven Roads.	GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST at anchor in same position as 4/4.
Bauhafen.	One pocket battleships in No.5 dock. (Ap.b. was seen in same dock 2/3).
Hipperhafen.	2 "K" class cruisers alongside southern quay. (Perhaps KOLN and KONIGSBERG).
Scheerhafen.	One 8" cruiser alongside southern quay. (Perhaps HIPPER).

LUTZOW was reported to be in Stettin 6/4. (C.3).

A/c sighting reports. (I.C. 0413/40).

0805/7 1 cruiser, (probably NURNBERG), 6 destroyers and 8 German a/cs were reported by a/c in position 20 miles W. of Horns Reef steering northerly course night 6/7 April. Visibility was 3 miles. Probably other ships present but not sighted. (I.C. 0414/40).
German W/T (naval) traffic was active late night 6/7. Most of the traffic seemed to emanate from between the northern half of the German declared mined area and coast of Jutland. (I.C.0413/40.

War Diary. 7.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Grain at Libau. Quantity Russian grain at Libau awaiting shipment to Germany 40,000 tons. A.1. 28 Latvian German vessels are here ice-bound, 3 so far loading grain. (V.C. Lipaja 1220/7).

Norway and Degaussing. Any objection to Norway sending expert to inspect degaussing gear. (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1151/7). No degaussing information is to be disclosed pending further instructions. (D.N.I. 1428/8).

WEATHER

0500.	Wind.	Visibility.	Outlook.
North Sea.	S. gale in N.	Good.	Similar, wind veering.
Horns Reef.	S.W. Moderate.	Good.	Similar.
Channel	S. or variable, Light.	Good.	Similar, wind freshening.
W.Approaches	S.W. Moderate.	Moderate.	Wind veering.

Enemy ...

War Diary. 7.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sweeping Reports.

Weather unfit for magnetic sweep (F.O. Humber 2003/7).

One type Y mine cut 194° R. buoy 1 mile. (V.A. Dover 1957/7).

Dundee drifters weather unsuitable.
Aberdeen, Peterhead nil, weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1915/7).

One mine was swept in Goodwin-Wandelaar Channel and a second just outside it.
(I.C. 0414/40).

Shipping.

Convoys.

HN 24 — Approaching Firth of Forth 0730.

ON 25 — Escorted by 4 destroyers and a S/m. is west of Shetlands (0730). Course reversed.
(C. in C. H.F. 1851/7).
MANCHESTER, SOUTHAMPTON and an A/A cruiser joined a.m./7.
To keep west of Shetlands until further orders. (C. in C. Rosyth 2235/7).
Reverse the course of ON 25 (C. in C. 1851/7).

HN 25 — Details (N.C.S.O. Bergen 1345/7).
Not to sail until further signal is made.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2140/7, D.T.D. 2201/7).
Ships of HN 25 have sailed for rendezvous.
(D.T.D. 0342/8).

OA 127 — Route and escort. (C. in C. W.A. 0146/7).

HX 33 — Position and escort 0600/18/4. (D.T.D. 1228/7).

Scandinavian. Your 1209/6 local pilots are definitely against the use of Vaags Fjord as convoy rendezvous except in calm weather.
(N.C.S.O. Bergen 1157/7).
Additional ships awaiting convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Bergen 1137/7).

FS 41 and FN 43. — Postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Rosyth 1012/7).

SL 27. — Route and escort. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 0857/7).

Miscellaneous. ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Attack on German Warships.

As result of enemy reports by our A/cs. 7/4, at 1325/7 a/cs. of Bomber Command located and attacked a force of enemy warships off Jutland Bank. These forces were reported on a North-Westerly course, steaming about 20 knots. The force is believed to have consisted of 1 b.c., (probably GNEISENAU), 2 cruisers of LEIPZIG class, a merchant vessel or a HIPPER class cruiser and 13 or 14 destroyers. 45 bombs were dropped without apparent result. Photograph subsequently confirmed the battle cruiser.

At 1530/7 our bombers and enemy Messerschmidts were engaged in position about 30 miles west of the enemy surface vessels previously reported. Two of our bombers were lost and one or possibly two enemy fighters were shot down. (D.C.N.S.217).

British Air Reconnaissance.

For 8/4. Air Min. 2030/7 see 8/4.

Units from Vimloss, Lossiemouth and Yarmouth (C. in C. Rosyth 1150/7).

3 vessels class unknown, position DKND 1848 at 1253 (C. in C. Rosyth 1352/7).

Vessels are 3 destroyers. (C. in C. Rosyth 1412/7) (Donibristle 1835/7).

A/C report. 2 cruisers, 1 large ship possibly SCHARNHORST class, 10 destroyers, position DKRU 4810 course 320 at 1325 (D.C. 1720/7). Further A/C reports indicate enemy forces are 1 Scharnhorst, 1 pocket battleship, 3 LEIPZIG class cruisers, 12 destroyers, course 335°. (D.C. 1817/7). My 1720/7. 3 ASU Hudsons being sent at 1900 to Lister to locate and shadow. (D.C. 2015/7).

British A/c Fired at.

By British trawlers. (C. in C. Nore 1829/7).

Mining. ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Forces detailed for Plan R 4 may be used as convenient for operations to bring enemy surface forces to action. (D.O.D.(H) about 1830(?))

Enemy reports passed to C. in C. etc. (D.D.I.C. 1315/7 amended by 1322/8).

Situation. Recent reports suggest German expedition being prepared. Hitler reported from Copenhagen to have ordered landing at Narvik with simultaneous occupation of Jutland. Sweden to be left alone. Reports are of doubtful value. Great Belts opened for traffic 5/4.

See also Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Warships. Location. (D.D.I.C. 1135/7).

S/ms. on Patrol. Adty's 1720/7 (giving position of enemy forces) CLYDE and THISTLE are available if you require them to intercept. (C. in C. H.F. 1924/7 to V.A.(S)). To sail with despatch (R.A.(S) 2041/7).

Bombing restrictions. (S.2 1148/7, V.A.(S) 1221/7, S.6 1922/7, S.2 2036/7, 2247/7).

Following movements to take place with despatch:- SEAL, SEVERN, TARPON, 2 of 3rd Sub.Flotilla from Harwich, Fr. AMAZONE. (R.A.(S)1934/7).

TARPON, SEVERN leave convoy and proceed N.E. (Capt. (S)2 2007/7).

Orders to TARPON, SEVERN, SEAL to attack and report enemy transports and warships. (Capt. (S) 2nd Sub. Flotilla 2008/7).

Orders ...

War Diary. 7.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Orders to Fr. ANTIOPE and AMAZONE to proceed with despatch to establish patrols. (Capt.(S) 10 2104/7).

Passing to CLYDE, THISTLE, SEVERN, TARPON posns. of S/ms. (R.A.(S) 0139/8).

Plan R 4.

Convoy TPI, NPI. (C. in C. Rosyth 1024/7).

Force R. Will be GALATEA, ARETHUSA and Polish destroyer. Force to have steam at 2 hours' notice from 0400/8. (C. in C. H.F. 1159/7).

Following to be at 2 hours' notice from midnight 7/4:-
Group 1. AURORA, MAORI, ASHANTI, FOXHOUND, BATORY.
Group.2. FAULKNOR, FORESTER, FORTUNE, CHROBRY.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1307/7).

CYCLOPS Orders. LONDONDERRY, BITTERN Escort.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1537/7).

Forces detailed for Plan R 4 may be used as convenient for operations to bring enemy surface forces to action.
(D.C.N.S. 1808/7).

Force S. Embarkation completed in Force S.
(F.O.C. I.C.S. 1830/7).

Air ...

War Diary. 7.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

One cruiser, 6 destroyers, 8 aircraft, my position YNRU 3037 (A/C 220 Sqdn. 0848/7). Donibristle 1145/7).

A/cs. 0848 (Reporting enemy warships and a/cs.) GALATEA, ARETHUSA and 2nd Destroyer Sub. Divn. will be ready to proceed 1200. (C.S. 2 1025/7).

A/cs. 0848. Cruiser probably NURNBERG class with 6 destroyers line abreast 2 miles ahead. 8 German a/cs. drove off shadowing a/c. (C. in C. Rosyth 1124/7).

A/cs. 0848/7. Approx. 40 British bombers should arrive to attack about 1300 (D.C. 1144/7 to S/ms. on patrol.)

German W/T activity from Wilhelmshaven on what is thought to be main operational wave for N. Sea, has been above average since 1800/16. (D.D.I.C. 1201/7).

SHEFFIELD, BEDOUIN, ESKIMO, PUNJABI, KIMBERLEY to proceed to rendezvous 0700/8 with C.S.2 (C. in C. H.F. 1617/7). Orders for C.S.2 (C. in C. H.F. 1607/7).

Movements of heavy ships. (C. in C. H.F. 1934/7).

Movements of C.S.2. (C. in C. H.F. 1607/7, C.S.2. 1945/7, C. in C. H.F. 1946/7, Capt.(S) 6 2306/7.

Movements of B.C.S. (F.O.C. B.C.S. 2157/7).

Movements of Force W.S. (D.O.D.(H) 2251/7 to Capt. (D) 3.)

Norwegian destroyer 1530/7 at anchor in bay approx. 1 mile from Christiansand South. See my 1215/6. (V-C Christiansand 2025/7).

Weather report. (Adty. 2120/7).

Enemy report by D/F, unreliable, 56°40'N. 5°E. (D.C. 2133/7).
Another at 2235/7. (D.O.D.(H) 2324/7.)

We are endeavouring to intercept 1 b.c., 1 pocket battleship, 3 cruisers, 12 destroyers reported by a/c at 1325 in DKRU 5010 course 320° 17 kts. (C. in C. H.F. 2249/7 to ships in company).

Forces ...

War Diary

7.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Home Fleet.

Forces engaged in operations R 4 and WILFRED are half way towards their objective. (0730).

RENOWN is at sea in support of the operations. All other capital ships are in harbour.

French light forces taking part are off north coast of Ireland (0730) on passage to Scapa.

Scout CHEVALIER PAUL left Brest 1400 for Scapa. (C. in C. W.A. 1451/7).

Northern Patrol.

Orkneys to Faroes	Trawlers
Faroes to Iceland	7 A.M.Cs.
Denmark Strait	2 A.M.Cs.

Vacating the patrol. (V.A.N.P. 2122/7, 2116/7).
Orders for Trawlers. (V.A.N.P. 1242/7).

S/ms. on Patrol.

Positions 0600/8. (R.A.(S) 1726/7,
Capt.(S) 2 1547/7, R.A.(S) 2238/7.)

Operations. ...

War Diary

8. 4. 40.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships attacked

OKEANIA, sunk 1139. — Greek (4843 tons) mined 51:17.7 N., 2:3 E. Traffic was not stopped as this is outside the channel (I.C. 0414/40) 29 survivors were landed at Ramsgate. Sunk in 51:16.8 N. 2:3.2 E., bows showing (I.C. 0415/40) Chief Engineer missing, 29 survivors loaded Ramsgate. Master and Chief Officer consider explosion originated on sea bed. (V.A., Dover, 1139/8, 1506/8, 1740/8).

Estimated U-boat dispositions

U/B patrols still operating near Orkneys.
1 West of Hebrides 2235/7 course unknown.
Possibly 1 in Irish Sea. (D.D.I.C., 1129/8).

Submarines reported

0018)
2210) — East side of Orkneys, close to Scapa Flow. Reliable D.F. position (F.O.C.O.S., 0101/8) (I.C. 0414/40). (I.C. 0415/40). (D.D.I.C., 2238/8).

2330 — D.F., unknown enemy unit, position not estimated. (D.D.I.C. 0001/9).

1900 — U/Boat reported on surface in W.P.H.I. 2818 at 1900/8. (F.O.C.O.S. 0950/9) 60:28 N., 00:42 W.

0910 — Reported by Z/233, MBZS 4330.

War Diary. 8. 4. 40.
Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands (continued)

KIEL — Sailed southward 0910 (Haugesund, 1250/8).

THESEUS — Sailed 7/4. (Trondheim 1230/8).

Mediterranean

ARKADIA — Arrived from Braila 6/4 cargo tobacco (C.G. Galatzi, 1100/8).

ANKARA
WACHTFELS — Dubrovnik reports Yugoslav pilot in ANKARA proceeding Trieste will transfer to WACHTFELS and bring her to Dubrovnik. (S.O.I., Malta 1317/8).

America & West Indies

HANNOVER — My 1700/26/3. Fire extinguished all holes, 50% cargo undamaged. (Capt. I.C. Jamaica, 1300/8).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

CHARLOTTE, EIFEL, ERIKA HENDRIK.	Ref. Admiralty messages 1658/2 and 1538/6. Regrettable that these ships should have escaped. Destroyers best vessels for interception. Having none in Nore Command, recommend arrangements be made for dealing with any similar cases either by French destroyers kept for purpose at Dunkirk, or British destroyers based on Dover, or by keeping sufficient submarines in Terschelling area to ensure that they will be able to intercept. (C. in C., Nore, 1046/8).
	German steamer about 5000 tons, loaded, watered and sailed southward during night. (Tromso, 1305/8).
	(name uncertain) Sailed southward 0910 (Haugesund 1250/8).
JAN WELLEM	Arrived 8/4. (Narvik 1730/8).
PROMETHEUS	Sailed 7/4. (Trondheim, 1230/8).
LUNA) NORDEN) KLAUSOLDENDORFF)	Arrived with general cargo (Gottenburg, 1200/8).
APOLLO	Sailing with general cargo (Gottenburg, 1200/8).
AACHEN	Arrived 6/4. (Narvik, 1121/8).
BOCKENHEIM	Arrived 8/4. (Narvik 1121/8).
NEUENFELS	Loading ore (Narvik 1121/8).
ALSTER) RAVENFELS)	Laden with coke deck cargo proceeding northwards. (Aalesund, 1100/8).
IMATA	Arrived in ballast pm Sunday, bunkering and loading (Tromsoe, 0955/8).
	Trawler (name unknown) passed northbound 2030/7 (Tromsoe 0955/8).

War Diary

8.4. 40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

New Zealand

French Sloop — Programme of DUMONT D'URVILLE (S.O.I., Wellington, 01132/8).

China

Dutch tugs — Asking him to reconsider his objections to employing Dutch tugs for service outside war Zone. Rescue tugs urgently required (Hd. of M. 0133/8 to C. in C., China).

Exchange of Buoys — Your 0314Z/6 approved. (Hd. of M., 1704/8).

East Indies

Raider — S.O.(I) Colombo 0647Z/8 See Home Commands, Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Mail — My 1822/1. Pending further instructions undertakings mentioned are not to be asked for. (D.E.W.D., 1713/8 to C.C.S.O., Aden).

Admiralty 1822/1. Govt. of India are prepared to co-operate. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1104/8).

War Diary

9. 4. 40
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Contraband Control Until further orders no "missing Kirkwall" clearances are to be issued. (D.E.W.D. to C.C.S.O., Gib., 1018/9).

Convoys

Situation (C. in C., W.A., 1313/9).

ON 25 At 0700 was off Sumburgh Head. (GRENADE, 1130/9). Request you will collect and escort ON 25 to Firth of Forth as soon as possible. (D.T.D., 1933/9 to C. in C. Rosyth).

HN 25 Sailing stopped. (D.C.N.S. 0620/9 C. in C., H.F. 0620/9). Later efforts to tell the convoy to sail failed owing to Norwegian cable breaking down. Attempt is being made to direct HN 25 to sail without escort (D.C.N.S. 0810/9).

2 ULU and 3 Polish destroyers to proceed to point X 061:42 N. 4:48 E. where ships of HN 25 are assembled. To order all ships to sail. German Naval force including KOLN class cruisers are in Bergen (C. in C., H.F. 0953/9). Sailed with H.N. 25, 39 ships (TARTAR 1700/9).

OB 126 Details. (N.C.S.O., Liverpool, 1325/9, Addition, 0630/10).

HX 30 Arrived (N.C.S.O., Ramsgate, 0948/9).

OA 127 Programme (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0917/9).

OA 126 Number and speed (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1104/9, 1155/9). None from St. Helens (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1735/9).

OB 128 GF to R.V. with OA 128 GF then becomes OGF 26 (C. in C., W.A., 1036/9).

OA 125 G Route (C. in C., W.A., 0946/9).
Details (C. in C., W.A., 1206/9).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys (continued)

OBM 125 G	Sailed (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1734/9).
OB 125G	to R.V. with OA 125G at 1700/10 then becomes OG 25. Route. (A.C.W.A. 1738/9)
BC 32	Sailed with escort 1700/9 (D.S.T.O. St. Nazaire 2245/9).
Scandinavian Shipping Suspended	All eastbound ships except U.S.A. ordered to proceed to a British port if not so bound, not Kirkwall, preferably Clyde (V.A.N.P., 1118/9, 1123/9).
	Leave Norwegian waters immediately for Kirkwall. (D.C.N.S., 0735/9, D.T.D., 1019/9).
	All neutral ships in British ports and bound for Norway, Denmark or Baltic ports should be prevented from sailing. (D.T.D., 1219/9) Amend to "Baltic or Arctic ports" (D.T.D., 1649/10).
	All Norwegian and Danish shipping is to be taken under British protection and should be detained in British harbours or sent there from the high seas. (D.T.D., 1347/9).
Aalsund	Authorities request British merchant ships to leave owing to fear of hostile air attack. (N.C.S.O., Aalsund, 1045/9).
	For FYLINGDALE, GLENTILT, BRIGHTON, LEO, HARDINGHAM, TRIDENT, TREGENNA, GOGOVALE, TREWORLAS, MINORCA only. If possible bring whole convoy to Kirkwall immediately without awaiting escort. Imperative for British ships to sail route westward of Shetlands (D.C.N.S. 0734/9 to all British Merchant Ships area A).
	British merchant ships in Norwegian waters are being instructed to sail forthwith for Kirkwall passing W. of Shetlands.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Continued)

Convoy intercepted — Unescorted convoy intercepted by/enemy battle-cruiser 40 miles off Froesocu Fjord (FYLINGDALE 1610/9). Cancel my 1610/9. Battle cruiser now flying Polish flag. (FYLINGDALE, 1700/9).

Norwegian ships — My 1347/9. Norwegian ships chartered to neutrals and not trading to Scandinavian Danish or Baltic ports should not be sent in except for normal contraband or export control. (D.T.D., 2108/9).

German Torpedoes — (see Submarines Reported).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Submarines — Your 1825/8. Ref. French Memorandum 398 EM3 para 32 dated 15/3. My interpretation is as follows:- French submarines have orders to treat all warships and merchant ships in this zone about whom they have not been previously advised as suspect not hostile. (F.O.C.N.A., 1042/9).

Submarine REDOUTABLE towed by French sloop D'IBERVILLE for Casablanca, position. (F.O.C.N.A., 1642/9).

Convoy OG 24 — Mediterranean Section passed Gib.2000/8. (F.O.C.N.A., 0940/9).

Ocean Convoys — DC 1932/9.

East Indies

Danish and Norwegian ships — In canal area. List. They are being detained until further orders.(S.B.N.O., Suez, 1811/9).

South Atlantic

GRAF SPEE — My 1120/8 entirely confirmed independent source. Free fight between Nazi and anti-Nazi sailors. (A.N.A., Buenos Aires, 1203/9). Requesting Davis submerged escape apparatus for diver in GRAF SPEE. (N.A., (at Monte Video) Buenos Aires 1116/9). Details of wreck and value of possible scrap materials (S.O.I., Montevideo, 2253/9).

Mediterranean

ARK ROYAL — Request you will sail ARK ROYAL, GLORIOUS, BULLDOG and WESTCOTT for Gibraltar at best possible speed. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., Med. 1301/9).

GLORIOUS — Situation may require ARK ROYAL and GLORIOUS to move to the west at short notice. (D.O.D.(F) 1128/9).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (continued)

EASTLEA — loading full cargo, expect to sail about 21/4. (P.S.T.O., Egypt, 2115/9)

DUBAC — Yugoslavian. Admiralty 1732/8. Ship should not have been sent in. (C. In C. Med., 1107/9).

America & West Indies

HANNOVER — Requesting release of photograph taken by H.M.C.S. ASSINIBOINE (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1616/9). No objection (D.N.I., 1642/10).

TC4 — My 1203/5. Now 2400 troops (C.N.S. Ottawa, 1732/9).

Convoy escorts BARHAM — Your 1128/8. BARHAM not likely to be available before mid July. Her employment will depend on circumstances. (D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.3 B.S., 1153/9).

Australia.

U.S.2. — Arrangements to be similar to U.S.I. (D.O.D.(F) 1949/9).

China

Minefield — Controlled minefield outside boom in Kuala Johore has been laid and will be brought into operation after short period to test general organisation for traffic. (F.O.C., Singapore, 0529Z/9).

German Ships — See GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Timor Oil Concessions — In view of Japanese attempts to secure pass Portugal oil concessions in Timor by threatening to make trouble in Portuguese Mocao, H.M. Ambassador in Portugal authorised to inform Portuguese Govt. that we are prepared to support them in Tokio against Japanese pressure. (D.N.I., 2205/9).

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (continued)

German Shipping — Darwin reports German ships in N.E.I. may fly Italian flags when attempting to sail; Dutch Fleet intend to put to sea to prevent interference by British warships inside territorial waters. (C.O.) (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0325Z/9).

War Diary

9.4.40.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

CHARLOTTE CORDS — Arrived 1310/9 in ballast. (N.C.S.O., Rotterdam, 1446/9).

HANS RICKMERS)
HODUR)
EMSRIFF)
— Informed by W/T between 1330 and 1430/9 to put into Danzig for orders. Usually employed in ore trade (I.C., 0416/40).

THESEUS — In neighbourhood of Bergen at 1400/9. (I.C. 0416/40).

POSIDONIA — Reported by TRIDENT scuttled off Svenoer, 58:58 N., 10:09 E. 8/4 outward bound with 8000 tons oil. (I.C., 0416/40).

North Atlantic

WINNETOO — Left about 2100 (N.C.S.O. Las Palmas, 2335/9).

South Atlantic

WINDHUK — My 1759/2. Second hearing of German appeal went in Anglo-Mexican favour. Final round probably 15/4 (A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1729/9).

America & West Indies

HANNOVER — Should be sailed for Bermuda so as to dock 29/4 if possible. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2051/9).

MIMI HORN — Asking which side of Puerto Rico (re route) (D.D.I.C. to TRANSYLVANIA, 1152/9).

War Diary

9.4.40.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

China

SCHEER

My 0326/9. Sourabaya reports attachments lifted on German ship (B.1) (C.O.I.S., Far East, Singapore, 1201Z/9).

War Diary

9.4.40.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

TOSCA sunk	Norwegian 5128 tons torpedoed without warning, 62:52 N., 07:34 W. and sunk. Trawler NORTHERN CHIEF standing by (V.A.N.P. 1018/10) 30 survivors picked up. (V.A.N.P. 1214/10, 0545/10) (A.S.W.D.219)
SVEABORG	Swedish, 9076 tons, torpedoed 62:52 N., 07:34 W. Still afloat but on fire at 0545/10. 34 survivors picked up by trawler (NORTHERN CHIEF) (V.A.N.P., 0545/10, 1018/10, 1214/10). (A.S.W.D. 219) Salvage impracticable. Trawler to sink derelict. (V.A.N.P., 1511/10).

Submarines Reported

Estimated disposition.

U-boat patrols still operating near Orkneys.
1 N.W. of Hebrides 0500/9 course unknown, position indefinite.
10 reported to have passed Great Belt 7/4 northbound (I.C., 0415/40).

0850	By aircraft 59:04 N., 4:10 E., 270° Stavanger 44'. (I.C. 0416/40).
1503	By aircraft 59:55 N., 3:00 E., 270° The Naze 130' (A/C 224 Sq. 1503/9).
1358	By ZULU, in 59:58 N., 0:30 W. (ZULU 1358/9) (see Attacks).
1425	By aircraft 58:26 N., 1:38 W., 095° Noss Head 46' (I.C., 0416/40).
1830	D.F., enemy unit probably U-boat, 58:50 N., 00:50 E. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1918/9) (I.C., 0416/40).

German Torpedoes Evidence that German submarine torpedoes, some of which leave no track on surface, are liable to explode at or near end of their run. Consequently an unexplained explosion near a ship, especially in the open sea and with no aircraft overhead, should be regarded as a probable submarine attack. (D.T.D., to all British merchant ships, 1121/9).

11

War Diary

9.4.40.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

1501 — By ZULU (see Submarines Reported) with 4 patterns. Large air bubbles seen after first attack. Contact held, now stationary. (ZULU, 1501/9)(A.S.W.D.218) (R.A.D.H.F., 1759/9). 59:58 N., 0:30 W., 076° Sumburgh Head 26' (I.C. 0416/40).

1512 — By JANUS about 5 miles E. of Auskerry (Orkneys). Bubbles seen. ECLIPSE and JANUS standing by. (A.S.W.D. 218) (JAVELIN, 1519/9, R.A.D.H.F. 1758/9), 59:00 N., 2:24 W., 117° Auskerry, 5-6'. (I.C., 0416/40).

Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

KASHMIR)
KELVIN)

Collision 060° 28' N., 2° 25' E. (KASHMIR 0400/9) ZULU and COSSACK escorted them towards Lerwick, COSSACK towing KASHMIR which was badly flooded aft. KELVIN proceeded stern first (ZULU 0641/9) Repairs (D.O.D.(H) 1042/9) R.A.D., H.F., 1451/9).

KELVIN entering harbour stern first. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1647/9).

GLASGOW)
SOUTHAMPTON)

Minor damage from near misses (aircraft) G has 1 dead, 4 wounded. She has director temporarily out of action. (C.S. 18, 1748/9).

GURKHA — Sunk see 1 of 4.
IMPULSIVE — Damaged. Returned to base (Admiralty 2340/9).

War Diary

9.4.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Weather

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	N.N.W. Light.	Good.
Horns Reef	Light, variable.	Good.
Channel	N.N.W. Light.	Good.
W. Approaches	Light, variable.	Good.
Norwegian Coast		
Name (South)	Light, variable.	Moderate.
Trondjhem	N.W. fresh.	Moderate, improving.

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

Norway Assistance — Norwegian Govt. stress need for strong and quick assistance before Germans establish firm footing. (Sir C. Dormer (Oslo-Hamar) No.5 9/4)

Tousberg, Bergen, Trondhjem, Narvik. — Occupied. (Sir C. Dormer (Oslo) No. 2 Rec. No. 25/9).

Helsingborg — German A.M.A. states Germans will very shortly occupy Helsingborg (Mr. Morgan (Angora, No.275 9/4).

Norwegian Lights — Norwegian Admiralty announce all lighthouses extinguished between Swedish frontier and Bergen.

Oiler — BRITISH LADY to sail escorted by 2 destroyers for Vestfjord. (C. in C. H.F. 0951/9 Sailed (F.O.C.O.S. 1605/9).

French ships — Liaison officer and signal ratings essential for LE CHEVALIER PAUL, FOUDROYANT, BOULDNNAIS each if these destroyers are to operate (R.A. D. 1101/9).

Reports to Norway — Reports of movements through Belts and Sound should be repeated to N.A., Oslo, for information of Norwegian Naval Defence Dept. (D.N.I., 0058/9)

Lights Extinguished — Norwegian Admiralty announce all lighthouses between Swedish frontier and Bergen extinguished. (D.C., 0152/9).

Netherlands — Apprehension of attack (N.A. Hague, 1535/9, 1945/9, Sir N. Bland (Hague) 1934/9).

Norway - Telephonic Communication — Telephonic communication was cut before the occupation. Whereabouts of Military and Naval Hq. not known. No information as to German forces in various ports is obtainable (Sir C. Dormer (Hamar) N.OI.O. 9/4).

War Diary

9.4.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Reports

By D/F 0021/9 Bearing of enemy surface unit was Sumburgh 092/2 (D.C. 0230/9).

D/F fix unreliable 0919/9 57:25 N. 6:0 E. (D.D.I.C. 1045/9).

By D/F reliable 57:35 N. 5:35 E. course probably N.W. (D.D.I.C. 1359/9). By D/F unreliable 58:45 N. 3:30 E. (D.D.I.C. 1702/9).

Heard approx 7 ships including 2 reciprocating engines steering W. at 2315 from MBJV 4929 15 knots visibility nil (TRUANT 2330/8)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

CORFIELD — Your 2047/8 appreciated but CORFIELD must proceed direct to Nore, urgently required. (D.M.S. to C. in C. W.A., 1112/9).
Admiralty 1939/5. Owing to additional electrical trials CORFIELD will not be ready to sail till 15/4. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 0937/9).

Mines in Germany — Suggestion that magnetic mines be dropped by aircraft on inland waterways of Germany. (N.A. Bucharest, 2203/9).

4th & 5th M.S. Flots. — Your 1654/9 (ships of 4th and 5th M.S. Flotillas available for Norway). Ships are to remain at 4 hour's notice. (D.M.S., 0014/10).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Enemy Minelaying

Following broadcasts received from Norddeich:- Notice to Mariners No. 20. In order to prevent enemy action, mines were laid last night off all important harbours on the west coast of Norway as well as in the Skaggerak in the region between Lindesnes and Lodbjerg and Flekkeroey Sandneeshage. Shipping proceeding unattended in and out of the mined harbours or through the mine areas in the Skaggerrak do so at its own risk. German pilot stations have been instituted on the West Coast of Norway. It is in the interest of shipping to follow the instructions issued by these stations when entering or leaving these harbours. Passage for friendly shipping through the mined areas in the Skaggerrak will be arranged at a later date and due notice will be given. (D.D.I.C., 1116/9).

Suspected that mines have been laid off Stadlandet (I.C. 0415/40).

Sweeping Reports

Weather unsuitable for M.G. sweep. (F.O. Humber, 2225/9).

30% shallow waters Fort Point to Wemyss Bay searched (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2154/9).

Searched area (N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 2021/9).

2 magnetic mines exploded 1 to 5 cables from Shipwash L.V. (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 1950/9).

No mines found but trawler sweep parted believed by explosive charge (V.A. Dover, ~~N~~ 1845/9).

No sweeping (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1729/9).

N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1853/9, Cdre i/c Sheerness 1845/9).

C. in C. Rosyth, 1833/9, 1831/9, 1711/9.

A.C.O.S., 1815/9.

F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1801/9.

F.O.I.C. Portland, 1752/9.

24 runs today by 3 aircraft in formation. No mines exploded. (C. in C. Nore, 1640/9).

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Attack on Main Fleet (Continued)

Fleet was under intermittent air attack from 1430 to 1740. RODNEY hit by a.p. bomb estimated 1000 lbs. which exploded on armoured deck punching hole without penetrating. No serious damage. GLASGOW and SOUTHAMPTON minor structural damage, DEVONSHIRE small leaks in fuel tank from near misses. No known casualties to aircraft but shooting was not bad. Personnel casualties GLASGOW, 1 killed, 4 wounded, RODNEY, 3 officers, 7 ratings wounded (C. in C. H.F. 0103/10).

Aircraft Preparations

Confirming conversation with D.C.A.S., two Hampden squadrons and two Whitley squadrons to be kept at immediate notice for operations against enemy ships found at sea. Remainder of Bomber Force to beat 3 hours' notice. (Air Ministry, 1110/9).

Reserve Aircraft

6 Swordfish aircraft as fully equipped as possible for first line operation to be transferred to Northern 1st Line Reserve, Donibristle. (R.A.N.A.S. 1449/9).

Air Watch

Continuous Air watch being maintained by aircraft at 2-hourly intervals from Lossiemouth to Bergen, Stavanger, Christiansand, thence to base. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1140/9).

Heligoland Reconnaissance

Bomber Command. Intelligence Report 357. No shipping at Heligoland except few small craft. Large liner at anchor 15000 tons approx. 500 yards E. of Heligoland, etc. (H.Q.B.C., 1445/9).

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity

No shipping seen in sweep area. (H.Q., B.C., 1040/9).

4 enemy destroyers JSRU 0257 150° 10 knots (aircraft 22nd Sqn. 0929/9).

Aircraft report at least one KOLN class cruiser at Bergen (D.C. 0935/9) Airdraft reports cruisers in Bergen. (D.C. 1426/9).

4 German destroyers off Naze 0605 course 130°. 10 M.Vs. in fjord leading to Bergen etc. (A.L.O. 1130/9).

Aircraft reports KOLN 60:24 N. 5:16 E. (A.L.O. 1300/9).

2 cruisers bearing 090 10 miles from 360 W.P.N.D. 24 (Aircraft 224 1317/9).

Enemy cruiser EMDEN class JSCU 0903 (aircraft 1501/9) (near Kristiansand) (Admiralty 1559/9).

Two Wellington Sqns. and 1 Hampden Sqn. to attack enemy cruisers at Bergen. (Air Min. 1520/9).

Your 1453/9 (attack on German ships by Skuas) consider operations possible. Force should be ready to leave Hatston 0430/10 (F.O.C.O.S. 1706/9)

Enemy Air Activity

2 Aircraft bearing 070° 7 miles. 142 XKDN (HYPERION 1020/9).

Attack on Main Fleet

Enemy aircraft are being controlled from position 58:20 N. 3:30 E. (A.L.O. 1300/9).

Bombing the Fleet heavily in 60:30 N. (C. in C. H.F., 1617/9). See GURKHA Casualties and Defects.

Am being bombed in 137 WPTS 8 (AURORA 1455/9, 1515/9).

Brief account of raid by GURKHA survivors (R.A.(D) H.F. 1936/10).

GURKHA sunk by bomb from Dornier about 1855 WPOX 1300. Have saved most of crew. (AURORA 2224/9 C. in C. Rosyth, 2248/9).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

French Submarines Orders for ANTIOPE, AMAZONE, LASIBYLLE (Capt. S.10 1819/9).

TRUANT cruiser, sunk At 1856 TRUANT attacked KOLN class cruiser in M.B.C.U. 5514 with salvo ten torpedoes. Heard faint explosion followed by 2 others within one minute. TRUANT attacked by 31 depth charges. Considered cruiser sunk. (S.2, 1112/12).

Minesweepers etc. All available ships 4th and 5th M.S. Flotillas to be fuelled and held in readiness to proceed to Norwegian waters. F.O. Humber to repeat names of ships that will be ready to sail p.m. tomorrow, Wednesday. (D.M.S., 1313/9).

4 A/S trawlers prepared for extended service are to be sailed for Scapa. (D.A.S.W. to C. in C. Rosyth, 1117/9, 1515/9). 23rd Group is to reach Scapa by 0800/11. (D.A.S.W. 1550/9).

A/S Group 28 to be kept ready to sail at four hours' notice. (D.A.S.W. to V.A., Dover, 1928/9).

A/S Trawlers In addition to those standing by for Plan R.4, 8 others to be kept available at Scapa for extended service at 6 hour's notice. (D.A.S.W. 0056/9).

War Diary

9.4.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

8th D.F. R.A.(D) 1417/9. Intend to R.V. with C. in C. 0500/10. This requires speed 29 knots (Capt. D.8 1458/9).

20th D.F. Cancel destroyer R.V. at 1800. Continue present duty (V.A.C.B.C.S. 1607/9).

8th D.F.)
3rd D.F.)
ZULU) To R.V. with C. in C. H.F. 0700/10 B.Q.H.I. 2400 (C. in C. H.F. 1656/9).

HYPERION)
HERO) To R.V. with C. in C. H.F. 0700/10 (R.A.(D) H.F. 1937/9).

ZULU Orders (R.A.(D) H.F. 1951/9) (To R.V. with C. in C. H.F.).

Destroyer Force W.S. The refuelled (Capt D/3, 1101/9).

Allied Submarines TRIDENT proceed forthwith to Oslo Fjord to attack enemy warships reported 0424 from Admiralty. THISTLE proceed Stavanger entrance. (V.A.S., 0447/9).

Request you will order THISTLE and CLYDE to sink enemy at Stavanger. (C. in C., H.F., to Admiralty, 0620/9).

Consider submarines should be ordered to torpedo any German merchant ships at sight in the vicinity of Norway and Denmark as they will probably be transports. (C. in C., H.F., 0928/9).

UNITY **attacked** Undamaged. By fortified merchant ships by 21 dc's in area E.2. 'UNITY 1945/9).

TRITON Patrol report (TRITON 0009/10).

THISTLE fired 6 torpedoes at submarine inward bound at entrance to Skudesnes Fjord at 1604. Result unconfirmed owing to enemy aircraft's 2 torpedoes remaining. (THISTLE 2130/9).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

FURIOUS WARSPITE Continued — After FURIOUS and WARSPITE R.V. they are to join me in B.Q.H.I. 2400 at 0700. Destroyers are also joining from Southend (C. in C. H.F. 2233/9).

Cruiser Squadrons — C. in C. H.F.'s 2252/8. Cancel patrol time. Forces under S.C.I. C.S.2 to concentrate on GLASGOW at 0500 in 59:30 N., 2:30 E. and then steer to meet C. in C. (C.N.S., 0210/9, 0235/9). Reason, because it placed dispersed and weaker forces in position in which they might be caught between the two German forces with Battle Fleet support 135 miles distant (1st S.L. 0235/9).

18th C.S. — and destroyers were detached at 1125 to attack enemy forces in Bergen as in my 1110/9 (C. in C. H.F. 1230/9 to Admiralty) 18th C.S. join me with your force. 060:28 N. 2:54 E. 500° 16 knots. (C. in C. H.F. 1445/9). Destroyers are to R.V. with me 0100/10 instead of 0445/10 (F.O.C. 18th C.S., 2237/9 to Capt. D.4).

18th C.S. / 2nd C.S. / French Sqn. — Sweep to prevent reinforcements reaching Bergen and Stavanger (C. in C. H.F. 1837/9) see Bergen.

6th C.S. — With battle fleet, q.v.

Destroyers — Request to send 4 destroyers to Clyde as soon as possible. (D.O.D.H. to C. in C. W.A., 0236/9).

Destroyers from W.A. — W.A. command to send 4 destroyers to Clyde as soon aspossible (D.O.D.H. 0236/9).

IMPULSIVE NARVIK — D. 2 reports damaged and returning to base (D.O.D.(H) 2340/9 to R.A.(D). Admiralty 0626 (? 0820/9). Send some destroyers up to Narvik to make certain no enemy troops land there. Norway is at war with Germany (C. in C. H.F. 0952/9).

8th D.F. — FAULKNOR, FORESTER, FOXHOUND to join me at dawn 10/4. My position etc. 1200/9 LRWY 500° 16 knots (C. in C. H.F. 1040/9, R.A.(D) 1417/9).

TARTAR — Capture or sink every German ship that you meet (C. in C. H.F., 1331/9).

War Diary

9.4.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Christiansand South.

My 1559/9 Aircraft report IKOLN class cruiser and 2 destroyers are at Christiansand South at 1722 (Donibristle 0155/10, D.C. 1802/9) also 3 C.M.Bs. leaving harbour (Aircraft 3(B) Sqn. 1720/9). One EMDEN class cruiser at anchor in harbour, 3 large merchantmen raising steam. No shipping seen in roads or near coast. Visibility poor (Donibristle 1945/9).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Stavanger

Order THISTLE and CLYDE to sink enemy at Stavanger (C. in C. H.F. 0620/9).

Asking for types of German warships off Stavanger (D.N.I. 0603/9 to Consul).

1 enemy destroyer alongside large M.V. at Stavanger (Donibristle, 1040/9).

At least one enemy ship approaching Stavanger A.1 (D.C. 0424/9).

Appears very important to stop reinforcements going to Bergen and Stavanger. Request you will consider a sweep by light forces off S.W. corner of Norway. (D.C.N.S., 1737/9 to C. in C. H.F.).

See also British submarines.

1540 No warships seen in or near harbour.
No activity in harbour rail or road. (Donibritle 1945/9).

War Diary

9.4.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Bergen

Aircraft reports of attack on cruisers (Donibristle 2300/9, 2330/9, Hd. Bomber Command, 0055/10, Donibristle, 0140/10, No. TOO Rec. 0413/10, No TOO rec. 0419/10, 0200/10).

1 KOLN class cruiser 1 EMDEN class cruiser in Bergen. Small coastal M.V.S. appeared to be patrolling entrances. C. in C. informed by light of 2 cruisers in Bergen harbour. (Donibristle, 1600/9).

18th C.S. and destroyers patrolling off Bergen where 2 enemy cruisers are anchored. (D.C. 2125/9)

Bombed transport off Bergen. No hits (Donibristle 2050/9).

HOME COMMANDS

Bergen

Operation cancelled, Aircraft Attack.

Cancel Bergen Operation (D.C. 1357/9 to C. in C. H.F.).
Investigate possibility of attack by Skuas with 500 lb. bombs. (D.N.A.D., 1453/9 to A.C.O.S.)

12 Hampden bombers will attack between 1700 and 1800/9 (D.C. 1516/9).

12 Wellington Bombers to attack 1900 to 1930 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1556/9).

18th C.S.

Cancel my 1445/9 return with your force and maintain patrol off both entrances (C. in C. H.F. 1614/9 to C.S. 18) (Continued on Cruiser page).
Admiralty 1453/9. Attack possible in favourable weather. (Hatston, 1630/9).

At 1550 5 large merchantmen S. of Haugesund, 5 C.M.Bs. coming out of Sound.
At 1620 2 cruisers K class, first near town, second 3 miles away (Donibristle 1945/9).

In view of my 1357/9 and your 1032/9 as FURIOUS should reach you pm/10 it has been decided not to use destroyers to attack cruisers at Bergen but a patrol must be maintained to prevent their escaping. Propose WARSPITE escort FURIOUS.
Do you concur (1st S.L. 1451/9 to C. in C. H.F.)
Concur. Will have my whole force in support.
Fleet is being heavily bombed in 60:30 N.
(C. in C. H.F. 1617/9). .

Appears very important to stop reinforcements going to Bergen and Stavanger. Request you will consider a sweep by light force off S.W. corner of Norway (D.C.N.S. 1737/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

To stop reinforcements 2 ships of 18th C.S. with destroyers are to sweep as far as Oberstad. Two ships off Fije Osen with destroyers to sweep as far south as Korsfiord, 2nd C.S. and French Squadron to patrol off Fije Osen at 0400/10 (-) forces are to steer for B.Q.D.N. (C. in C. H.F., 1837/9 to C.S. 18, C.S.2, EMILEBERTIN).

Your 1706/9. Operation may be carried out at your discretion. (D.N.A.D. 2256/9 to A.C.O.S.).

Provided weather is suitable comply with Admiralty 2256/9. Objective enemy warships at Bergen (A.C.O.S. 2347/9 to R.N.A.S. Hatston).

One cruiser was off the town, the other 3 miles S.W. of her. One cruiser was hit by a 500 lb. bomb on quarter deck. (D.C. 0121/10 to A.C.O.S.).

War Diary. 9.4.1940,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Norwegian Coast.

Narvik. 2nd D.F. proceed to patrol off West Fiord. Enemy transports may attempt to enter. (RENOWN, to D.2, 0626/9).

(see also Destroyers).

It is reported that in spite of orders contained in Admty. 1850/8 an enemy force has arrived at Narvik. You are to ensure that no reinforcements reach them. (1st S.L., 1138/9).

Orders to Attack. Pfess reports one German ship arrived Narvik and landed small force. Proceed to Narvik and sink or capture enemy ship. At your discretion land forces if you think you can recapture Narvik. Try to get possession of batteries if not yet in enemy hands. Details. (1st S.L., 1200/9, to Capt. D.2).

Destroyer Force (British) off West Fiord. (D.C.,2125/9).

Trondheim.

Three transport ships engaging forts Trondheim. Unknown types passed Agdenes. (N.A., Oslo, 0310/9).

Two German warships at Trondheim, A.1. (D.C., 0424/9).

Asking for types of German warships in or off Trondheim, (D.N.I., 0603/9 to Consul).

Operations against Trondheim not to be carried out until German battle-cruisers are located, as it would entail dispersal of your forces. (1st S.L., 1132/9).

A/c report, large cruiser, probably HIPPER class, at Trondheim, PFRR 3050 at 1420. Enemy air patrol being maintained in vicinity. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1844/9), (D.C., 1802/9).

War Diary

9.4.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Plan R.4.

A/S Trawlers (D. A/S W. 0055/9, 0056/9).

N.S.I. Positions, escort WOLVERINE, VANESSA, route etc. (N.C.S.O. Cardiff, 0155/9).

Destroyers Request you will send 4 destroyers from Western Approaches to Clyde soon as possible (D.O.D. (H) 0236/9) Orders to WITHERINGTON, WHIRLWIND, VANDO, VOLUNTEER to proceed with all despatch (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0620/9, C. in C. W.A. 0622/9)

0236 these 4 destroyers are urgently required at Clyde. Should be provided from nearest source and sailed with all despatch (D.C. 0650/9 to C. in C.W.A.).

Admiralty 0626 (? 0820/9) Send some destroyers up to Narvik to make certain no enemy troops land there. Norway is at war with Germany (C. in C. H.F. 0952/9 to Capt. D.2).

Enemy report by D.H. (D.D.I.C. 1045/9).

All naval personnel detailed for Nicolaco are to be transferred forthwith from BATORY to CHOBRY. (D. of P. 1421/9 to F.O.I.C., Greenock).

CYCLOPS Instructions for escort in Admiralty 1826/4 para. 3 are cancelled (D. of P. 1427/9) Re Admiralty 1427/9. Comply (C. in C. Rosyth, 1706/9).

A/S Group 23 To reach Scapa by 0800/11 (D.A/S W., 1550/9 re his 0055/9).

BRITISH LADY Sailed Scapa for Vestfjord (F.O.C.O.S. 1605/9) Escort GRENADE, ENCOUNTER (F.O.C.O.S. 1651/9).

S.S.ORION 2 destroyers of 16th D.F. to escort, sailing London pm/11 to Leith. Must be accepted for present that one escort only will be available for Military personnel convoys (D.O.D.(H) 1530/9)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Plan R4

FRANCONIA) (D.O.D.(H) 1536/9) Escort (C. in C. W.A., 2140/9)
SOBIESKI)

Balloon trawlers M.I.S.Trawlers) To be kept at 12 hours' notice for extended service (D. of P. 1845/9).

Escort — for military personnel convoys (ARROW, ACHERON C. in C. Portsmouth 1900/9).

CHROBRY BATORY — Orders. C. will probably go to Narvik, B. to Trondheim area (DODH 1916/9).

Convoy N.S.I. — To be diverted to Belfast to await arrival of LOCHEE (petrol ship) all those ships then proceed to Scapa (D.O.D.(H)1927/9).

ORION) CEDAR BANK) BLACKHEATH) — Escort (D.O.D.(H) 2223/9, C. in C. Portsmouth, 0237/10).

N.S.I. — Programme, route. LOMBARDY, MACGREGOR LAIRD. Escort WOLVERINE, VANESSA (N.C.S.O. Cardiff, 0155/9).

War Diary. 9.4.1940,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements ~~of~~ Norwegian Coast.

ARK ROYAL, GLORIOUS — Situation may require them to move to west at short notice. (D.O.D. (F), 1128/9).

Destroyers, Cruisers. — Reinforcements of destroyers and cruisers in Northern waters will be required. (C.in C.,H.F., 1204/9)

Northern Patrol. — Is to resume station. (D.C., 0717/9). Orders (V.A.N.P., 0816/9).

A/A Cruisers. — Proposed redistribution. (R.A., A/A Ships, 1046/9).

S/M's. — Positions 0600/10. (R.A.S., 1921/9, D.C.,2129/9) Orders to TRIDENT, TRITON, TRUANT, TRIAD, TARPON, SEAL, CLYDE, SEALION, UNITY and SNAPPER. (R.A.S., 1756/9).

French Forces. — CHEVALIER PAUL, destroyer, arrived Scapa 0830/9, (ACOS, 0900/9).
LA SYBILLE (s/m) left Harwich 1523. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1534/9)
Temporary arrangements made with Admiral du Nord for French destroyers to take over as from 1000/11/4 patrol of Q Z S 60 from Wandelaar to North Goodwin. (V.A., Dover, 1926/9).

Larne-Stranraer Transport. — Admty. 1352/7. In view of withdrawal of destroyer escort, 1 ship of 3rd A/S.S.F. to patrol the route for the crossing 10/4 and subsequent days. (D.O.D.(H), 2112/9). F.O.I.C., Greenock, requested to detail 1 ship accordingly. (C.in C.,Rosyth, 2235/9). Orders to JASON (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2355/9).

Main Fleet. — Is patrolling between 60° N. and 63° N. No contacts have been made with enemy. (D.C., 2125/9).

War Diary. 9.4.1940,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Norwegian Coast.

Home Fleet. Dispositions of Home Fleet are being made with two objects:-
(a) To prevent German North Sea forces returning,
(b) To deal with possible German force of 100 ships reported as having passed Great Belt at 1400/8 and known to be covered by Naval force which passed the Skaw at 1800/8.

Dispositions, 0730/9.

C.in C., H.F., with RODNEY, VALIANT, SHEFFIELD, PENELOPE and destroyers are 50 miles W. of Utvoer Lt., 61° N., 4° 30' E., steering 180° 18 knots.

DEVONSHIRE, BERWICK, YORK, GLASGOW, ARETHUSA, GALATEA, EMILE BERTIN and 17 destroyers R.V'd 100 miles W. of Haugesund 0500/9 and are sweeping north to join C. in C.

AURORA passed through Pentland Firth 0200/9 proceeding to join C. in C. The 3 destroyers in company with her have proceeded into Scapa.

REPULSE and destroyers have been ordered to reinforce RENOWN. Their position is at present unknown.

BIRMINGHAM and FEARLESS were hove to 160 miles S.W. of Lofoten, with N.W. gale, at 2000/8. Their present position is unknown.

Force W.S. TEVIOT BANK was ordered to proceed to Sullom Voe independently. INGLEFIELD and 3 destroyers who had been escorting her are also returning to Sullom Voe to fuel.

Force W.B. Position of HYPERION and HERO is unknown, but they were told to keep to eastward of 5° E. during the dark hours; subsequently they are to return to Sullom Voe for fuel.

FURIOUS. FURIOUS, with MAORI, ASHANTI and FORTUNE are off Skerry Vore proceeding to the West of the Shetlands. Asking when she can R.V. 10 miles N. of Muckle Flugga. Tracings of Trondheim to be prepared. (C. in C.,H.F., 1133/9) Can arrive 0500 (FURIOUS, 1340/9). FURIOUS sailed with escort. N.O.I.C.,Greenock, 0130/9).

WARSPITE. WARSPITE and 2 destroyers have been diverted to Scapa, (arrived 1615/9).
4 destroyers from Liverpool are proceeding to Clyde.

Cancel my 0717/9, as enemy battle cruisers have not yet been located. (1st S.L., 1510/9).

War Diary. 9.4.1940, Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Norwegian Coast.

Bergen.

Present position. Off Bergen, 5 ships, unknown size, 2 small. (N.A., Oslo, 0310/9).

Mines are laid at Bergen. (N.A., Oslo, 0320/9).

Asking for types of German warships in or off Bergen (D.N.I., to Consul, 0603/9).

Order for Attack. Approved to carry out proposed operation against enemy forces in Bergen. (1st S.L., 1015/9).

Your 0424. Is there any intelligence of nature of enemy force in Bergen, as I should like to send MANCHESTER, SOUTHAMPTON and 6 destroyers there. Request you will order THISTLE and CLYDE to sink enemy at Stavanger. (C. in C., H.F., 0620/9 to Admty.) Reply (D.C., 0825/9).

Prepare plans for attacking German warships and transports in Bergen and for controlling approaches to port. Similar plans to be prepared for Trondheim if you have sufficient forces for both. Watch Narvik to prevent Germans landing, as we shall probably want to land a forcethere. (1st S.L., 0820/9 to C. in C., H.F.)

One KOLN class cruiser Bergen 0844. (A/C, 224 Sqdn., 0900/9, Donibristle, 1200/9).

Your 0820. Two divisions destroyers can be ready in 3 hours. Two cruisers outside each of 2 entrances in support. If gun defences are in hands of enemy as appears from your 0825 consider(? same time)best chance of success with FURIOUS torpedo a/c's dusk 10/4. (C. in C., H.F., 1032/9).

18 C.S. to Attack. When ordered 18th C.S. with 4th and 6th D.F. to attack enemy forces in Bergen. Destroyers to enter by 2 entrances, cruisers in support. U-boats may be patrolling. (C. in C., H.F., 1110/9).

It can no longer be assumed that defences are in hands of Norwegians, but my 1015/9 still stands. (D.C.N.S., 1211/9 to C. in C.,H.F.)

2 cruisers KOLN or EMDEN class at anchor. (A/c, 254 Sqn. 1327/9).

War Diary. 9.4.1940,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Norwegian Coast.

Appreciation by C. in C., H.F.

Attack (enemy ?) starting in north with surface forces and military assistance where necessary, leaving south mostly to s/m's owing to German air superiority in south.

Start with Narvik, which is main enemy objective.

Have sent oiler BRITISH LADY to Westfiord, she needs battleship escort, suggest WARSPITE.

Suggest FURIOUS a/c's attack alleged 8" gun cruiser in Trondheim. I will provide cover, leaving ships in Bergen to R.A.F. FURIOUS cannot work in latitudes we were in to-day. One hit such as RODNEY sustained would go clean through her.

Re southern area, suggest concentrate more s/m's at Blyth, Rosyth, Dundee, until political happenings in Holland likely, when Harwich to be reinforced.

S/m minelayers to mine N. end of Great and Little Belts, and s/m's to be responsible for Skudesnes Fiord.

Badly want more cruisers and destroyers. Owing to distances we now have to work, lack of endurance of destroyers necessitates almost double number.

MALAYA would be useful for convoying troopships, etc., to North. (C. in C., H.F., 2231/9).

Admiralty Appreciation.

Consider Germans made strategic error in incurring commitments on Norwegian Coast, which we can probably wipe out in short time. Seems to me very likely great land battle in West will soon begin. (Private Office, 1915/9, to C. in C.,H.F.)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Oslo

Present position. Off Horten, 1 large ship, 3 cruisers, unknown number of submarines. (N.A. Oslo, 0310/9).

Four German warships reported entering Oslo Fjord at 0235/9 engaged by defences. A.I. (D.C. 0424/9)

Admiralty evacuating. Cruisers steaming up Oslo Fjord. (N.A. Oslo, 0431/9, D.C. 0553/9).

Heavy air and A/S patrols off Oslo Fjord. (TRIDENT, 2230/9).

Enemy air attacks made on Horten. (N.A. Oslo, 0430/9).

Battle Fleet At 2000 battle fleet will steer 270° from B.Q.W.Y. 4047, 16 knots. At 0500 alter course to 115° 1st C.S. will be spread 7 miles 180° from Battle Fleet (C. in C. H.F. 1901/9).

Position during night see Movements.

Battle-Cruiser Squadron Unknown 2 ships. My position D.R.R.R. 2238 (RENOWN 0350/9).

RENOWN in action Note. ships later stated by HARDY to be 2 cruisers The position is 50 miles west of Rost (Lofoten (S) A running fight developed. (see also 2nd D.F.) RENOWN was engaged with ships considered to be battle cruiser and one HIPPER class. Two hits were observed on the former, which turned away covered by smoke screen, and touch was lost. RENOWN received minor damage from 2 hits. (F.O.C.B.C.S. 0946/9).

Proceed to patrol off West Fjord, enemy transports may attempt to enter (RENOWN to D.2 0626/9).

FURIOUS WARSPITE WARSPITE screened by JAVELIN, JANUS, JUNO, ECLIPSE, ESCORT is to R.V. with FURIOUS 10 miles N. Muckle Flugga 0500/10 (F.O.C.C.O.S. 2006/9). They left Scapa 2134/9 (F.O.C.C.O.S. 2134/9).
WARSHITE will be one hour late at R.V. (F.O.C.O.S. 2119/9).
Sail WARSPITE as in C. in C. H.F. 1617/9 (D.C.N.S. 2123/9).

War Diary. 10. 4. 40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines Attacked.

1740	By A/C 60 miles S.W. of Bergen. No hits observed (A.S.W.D. 219).
1545	By GREYHOUND off West Fjow 67° 33' N., 12° 50' E. GREYHOUND considered attack successful (D.C.N.S. 220)(GREYHOUND 1545/10
0057	MANCHESTER reported running over a submerging S/M off Bergen Result uncertain (D.C.N.S. 220 A.S.W.D.220).
1235	By A/C 32 miles E. Duncansby Head, 4 bombs. Nearest dropped 10 yards from U-boat (A.S.W.D. 220).

War Diary. 10. 4. 40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

Submarines reported.

0922	By D/F 59° N. 2° E. unreliable. (D.D.I.C. 0953/10, 1050/10).
1235	Reported by a/c 058° 40' N. 2° W. course 350° (A.C.O.S. 1342/10).
1433	By A/C, 58° 40' N., 01° 55' W., course 3500 1 knot. (Scapa Base 1433/10).

Submarines reported.
Estimated dispositions.

0918	U-boat seen off Beal Point, N. Down, unreliable. VENETIA sent to investigate. (A.S.W.D.219) Later cancelled (C.in C., W.A. 1019/10, cancelled 1119/10).
1202	U-boat reported off Aberporth, Cardigan Bay, VENETIA sent to investigate. (A.S.W.D. 219)(C.in C., W.A. 1225/10, 0052/11).
0922	D.F., unkown enemy unit, probably S/m, 59° N. 8° E. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0953/10).
2208	D.F., unidentified enemy unit, probable U-boat, 58° 50' N., 00 20' W., unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 2245/10).
1724	By A/C M.B.W.S. 4810 (C.in C., Rosyth 1724/10).
1235	By A/C 58° 40' N., 02° W. (A.C.O.S., 1342/10).
2107	By lighthouse keeper 1 m. E. of Duncansby Head, course S. at 2106. S/m submerged 2107 (C.in C Rosyth 2128/10).

War Diary. 10. 4. 40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

ROSAFRED	with coke for Swedish Goverment. My 1133/9. May leave Antwerp early 11/4 proceeding via Kiel Canal. (N.C.S.O. Antwerp 2335/10).
CURITYBA	4969 tons, making S.O.I. in 59° 08' N., 10° 40' E. at 0620/10 G.M.T. (I.C., 0416/40).
JURGEN FRITZEN	HESTIA, KONIGSBERG & JOHANNA sailed, and RABAT, KONSUL SCHULTE and HOMBERG arrived with coal. (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1249/10).

North Atlantic.

WINNTOU	Left Las Palmas about 2100/9 (F.O.C.N.A. 1011/10).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Continued)

to be detained). Abide strictly by my 1347/9 as modified by subsequent signals addressed to you. (Hd.of M., 1635/10, to C.in C., China.).

Austrailia.

US 3 arrangements regarding R.N. (Austr. C'wealth N.B.0615/10).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (Continued).

EMERALD — To proceed Halifax at best speed and fuel. May be required to return. (D.O.D.(F) 0106/10).

1910/10 — Amendment (routeing of Danish and Norwegian ships)(C.in C., A.W.I. 1943/11).

East Indies.

Scandinavian Shipping. — Admiralty 1347/9, re protection of Norwegian & Danish shipping, and my 1648/9. Intend to regard Besra and Bahsein as Allied harbours. (C.in C., E.I.,15412/10

Admiralty 1347/9, following patrols in addition to Persia and Persia Gulf patrols being established - CATHAY off Mormafoa, RANCHI off Lourenco Marquess, CARTHAGE vicinity of Aden. (C.in C., E.I., 0722/10).

China.

PELIKAN — My 0444 2/3/4. S.O.I.,Shanghai, reliably informed U.S.S.R. ship PELIKAN renewed loading Wenchow under ownership and control of Reuter Brockelmann & Co. (C.in C China, 05112/10).

N.E.I. Territorial waters. — In view of Dutch East Indies Government proclamation i.e. territorial waters, request guidance whether this should be relaxed in order that patrol unit can follow up in event of enemy merchant ships breaking through a narrow channel or straits (F.O.I.C., Singapore, 0357/10).

Norwegian Ships, &c. — Your 0715/10, (genuine Norwegian & Danish ships to be allowed to proceed, but suspicious ones

War Diary. 10. 4. 40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Corfu Invasion Report.	Susak report of Italian troop-ships assembled Zora to invade Corfu (A.O)(S.O.I.,Malta, 2233/10).
Danish Ships.	All encountered are to be sent to a British port under armed guard.(C.in C., Med., 1908/10).
Scandinavian Ships.	Ref. S.B.N.O., Suez 1811/9. If sufficient forces are available ships should be released and boarded outside territorial waters. Northbound ships to be diverted under escort or armed guard to Malta or Haifa, south-bound ships to Port Sudan. Diversion to Aden not desirable unless Port Sudan lacks accommod ation. Norwegian ships to be detained for examination.Danish ships see my 1630/10. Until H.M. ships are available to carry out above procedure, detention in Canal Area to be obtained by administrative delays. Attention drawn to my 2108/9.(Hd.of M., to C.in C., Med., 1931/10).
GLORIOUS	To re-embark 802 Squdn.(D.N.A.D. to C.in C., Med., 1832/10).

America & West Indies.

Norwegian Ships.	At Aserba, refuse to sail until orders received from Norwegian Minister, Washington. Can you inform me what action is being taken by him? (C.in C.,A.W.I., to N.A. Washington 1538/10).

War Diary. 10. 4. 40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Forces. Patrols and convoy positions 1300/10. (D.C., 0231/10).

Ocean Convoys. D.C.1909/10.

South Atlantic.

Argentina & D.E.M.S. Argentina authorities have issued decree permitting armed merchant ships alongside dockyard all Argentine ports without discharging ammunition. (N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires 1714/10).

Mediterranean.

Supplies to Enemy Submarines. Report that VELERO GALIANA, trading between Spain and Ceuta, will probably supply German S/M on next voyage. (A.N.A., Madrid, 1529/10).

Norwegian Ships. In Mediterranean, instructed by German Command in Norway to go to nearest neutral harbour on try to reach home. (D.E.W.D., 2111/10)

NICOLINE MARSK. Danish. Has pro-German Captain who would probably attempt to take ship to neutral port to avoid British control.(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1214/10). Take necessary action to intercept and bring to Malta. (C.in C., Med., 1847/10).

Enemy Submarines. Your 1934/8. Request information and sources of this report. (D.N.I., 1250/10 to N.A., Rome).

War Diary. 10. 4. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

D.E.M.S. Argentina. See FOREIGN STATIONS, South Atlantic.

Danish Ships. All Danish ships are now technically enemy, owing to German control of Denmark. Masters and crews not to be trusted as enemy hoped they will find employment with Allies (Hd. of M. 1630/10).

How to treat them. To be seized in prize if necessary (Dty1630/10

Convoys.

OG 24	Arrived Gibraltar with French escort. (S.O.I., Gib.,1006/9).
Convoy	17 ships with BREDA and escort sailed 0700 (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall, 0745/10).
ON 25 & HN 25	Code words (D.T.D. 1627/10).
HGF 27	Route (D.T.D. 1826/10).
OB 127	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1451/10, 1447/10).
HN 25	Route, eastbound portion (C.in C Rosyth, 1340/10)(D.T.D.1632/11).
OA 127	Number and speed (N.C.S.O.Thames 1107/10).
TM	None to-night (C.in C., Rosyth, 1212/10).
H 29	Arrived, has 3 scattered in E. gale 23/3. (D.T.D. 1047/10).

War Diary. 10. 4. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Danish Ships. Re orders for detention of Danish ships. A signal from Denmark intercepted ordering all Danish ships to take refuge in neutral ports. Possibility of similar action being taken in Norway must not be overlooked. (D.E.W.D. 2031/10 to all C's in C. &c.).

All Ships. Bound for Scandinavian, Danish, Baltic or Arctic ports are to be sent in (Hd. of M. 1638/10, C.in C., W.A. 2021/10).

Norwegian and Danish ships. All Norwegian and Danish shipping is to be taken under Allied protection and detained in harbour or sent into U.K. ports, but Norwegian ships chartered to neutrals and not trading to Scandinavian, Danish, or Baltic ports should not be sent in except for normal control. (A.C.M.S. 1200/10).

My 1200/10, words beginning "but Norwegian ships chartered" are cancelled. All Norwegian ships should be sent into an allied port on some pretext or other and should be detained until further orders. (Hd.of M., 0056/12).

Swedish ships. Major part of Swedish Mercantile Marine in port paying off 11/4 (N.C.S.O. Gothenburg 1747/10).

Danish fishing craft. About 20 Danish seine net fishing vessels in Moray Firth. To be rounded up and sent Invergordon. (C.in C. Rosyth to BITTERN, 1741/10).

April 1940

10.4.1940,
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Air Attack.

RATAPIKO. Trawler, of Leith, attacked 1515/10 by machine gun fire and one bomb by one a/c, S.S.W. Fair Isle, 6 miles. Machine gunner believed slightly wounded. (A.C.O.S., 1300/12).

2nd C.S.,
GALATEA,
ARETHUSA,
EMILE BERTIN,
MAILLE BREZE.

Forces under his command were attacked during operations on 9-10 April. ARETHUSA insignificant damage from near miss, 9/4. No damage or casualties, 10/4. 60° 40' N., 2° 30' E., 1600-1740/9. 59° 30' N., 1° 0' W., 1750/10.

13.4.1940,
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy Reports.

Names of Sunk Ships. My 1855/12, add (8). Confirmation required of names of German warships sunk in Oslo Fiord. (Admty. 0802/13 to Aalesund).

Asking whether sinking of GNEISENAU in Oslo Fiord can be confirmed. (D.N.I., 0801/13 to N.A., Stockholm).

Cruiser, destroyer. A/C reports 1 cruiser, 1 destroyer, LKND 0712, at 1117, steering N.W. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1652/13).

S/m's. Reliable report at 1540, s/m passed Baroy (corrupt group), Narvik. At 1548 another passed, both at full speed on surface, nationality unknown. (PENELOPE, 1630/13, to C.in C.H.F., F.O.C.B.C.S.)

Indications that U-boats are stationed off Narvik, Trondheim, Bergen and probably the other occupied ports of Norway. (D.D.I.C., 1208/13).

Cruisers. A/C report, 2 cruisers probably NURNBERG class at Christiansand, JSJV 0859, at 0855/13, also four M.V.'s, approx. 6000 tons in harbour. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1546/13).

14.4.1940,
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Namsos.

Situation. A. Intention up to present has been to land the force for operations in Trondheim area at Namsos.

B. For many reasons it would be advantageous to land force inside Trondheim Fiord.

C. Could ships destroy or dominate shore batteries so as to permit transports to enter? If so, what ships would you propose to use?

(1st S.L., 0142/14 to C.in C.H.F.)

14.4.1940,
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik.

S/m. **Locally reported off Engenes 149 G O M O 5, 0400/14.** (SOUTHAMPTON, 0850/14)

14.4.1940,
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Aalesund.

S/m. Have lost touch with enemy s/m, last seen in XKND 3525. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ (A/C, 220 Sqdn., 1505/14).

Sognefiord. Sognefiord reported held by Norwegian Naval Forces. Norwegian Admty. requests British Naval Forces establish contact and send support to hold this vital position. (Aalesund, 1532/14 to N.I.D.)

14.4.1940
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy Reports.

S.s. SKAGERRAK. Tanker, scuttled 14/4 after interception by SUFFOLK N.W. of Aalesund (see also 15/4). Your 2310/4. No. SKAGERRAK was not sighted and owing to misinterpretation of Admty. 1038/14 search was not made. (YORK, 0624/15 to C.in C.H.F.)

14.4.1940
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

MILAN. French destroyer, in collisio n with unknown vessel. Oil tank leaking to sea. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1140/14). Temporary repairs about 3 days, ship then fit for any service. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 1559/14).

15.4.1940
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik.

U.49 Sunk. In Vaagsfiord by FEARLESS, BRAZEN, AMETHYST when sweeping ahead of Troop Convoy on its arrival. 4 officers, 36 ratings saved. (VALIANT, 2105/15, 2146/15, D.D.I.C., 1432/16).

15.4.1940
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

OPerations

Stavanger.

A/C Attacks. On aerodrome, 14/4. (Donibristle, 0131/15). Aerodrome heavily defended. Our bombs exploded on hangar. (Donibristle, 0247/15).

15. 4. 1940,
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

NARVIK.

Landing Position. My 1905/15 and my 2023/15. Correct FRAMNES to read FRAMNES. Appears a landing to North East of Narvik from Rombaks Fiord would not have to compete with fixed defences and could be well covered by destroyers' pom-poms and guns. Ships have laid off close to shore at various points and no opposition has been seen. (Capt.(D) 8, 2309/15).

15.4.1940
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Trondheim.

Enemy Destroyer. Norwegian naval unit reported to British flying-boat 20 to 30 German aircraft at Trondheim aerodrome, plus one destroyer and one captured Norwegian gunboat. Germans have captured coast battery at entrance to Fiord. Norwegian troops holding their own in Trondheim neighbourhood. (D.C., 0330/15 to C. in C. H. F.)

15.4.1940
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy Reports.

Surface Ship. — By D/F, 1930/15, unknown enemy unit, 57° N., 2°20' E., reliable, surface ship. (D.D.I.C., 1959/15).

4 ships sunk. — Have sunk four merchant ships, estimated 17,700 tons. One torpedo remaining. (SWORDFISH, 0231/15).

BUENOS AIRES. — Informed Copenhagen W/T station, 2002/15, she was stuck in ice off Drogden Channel, S. of Svaelget (55° 40' N., 12° 41' E.). (I.C., 0423/40).

AMASIS. — Press report she was torpedoed off S.W. Coast of Norway, 8/11.

CURITYBA. — Press report she sank in Oslo Fiord after being shelled, 11/4.

15.4.1940
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bergen.

M.F.B.'s. Suggesting their use to prevent supplies for enemy forces from reaching Bergen and Trondheim by sea through Indreled. (C. in C.H.F., 2250/15 to Admty.)

15.4.1940
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Mining.

Lonigen Minefield.	Norwegian S.N.O., Tromso, sending two small motor minesweepers arriving a.m./16 to sweep reported minefield off Loningen. (IMOGEN, 1730/15, to F.O., Narvik).
Russian Minefield, Petsamo.	N.A., Helsingfors, states Finnish Naval Staff report Russian minefield still exists off Petsamo. Details. (D.N.I., 1031/15).

15.4.1940,
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Floating Balloons, Orkneys.

Consider it most desirable to retain floating balloon sites, notwithstanding fact that large replacements of balloons must be expected from casualties, weather and gunfire. Moorings laid for this purpose. Recommand balloon trawlers be retained here. (A.C.O.S., 1816/15). Condition of balloon trawlers. (A.C.O.S., 1555/15).

15.4.1940
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Lights Extinguished.	All lights exhibited in Channel Oostgat and Wielengen have been extinguished from 2000 daily. (N.C.S.O., Antwerp, 0958/15).

15.4.1940,
Monday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

LOMBARDY, LOCHE.	LOMBARDY dragged in gale during night and collided with LOCHE. Probable will have to return to Clyde. (A.C.O.S., 1043/15).
GREENFLY, collision.	H.M.T. GREENFLY, in shifting berth, caught by wind, collided with STELLA PEGASI and LORD LLOYD. Damage not serious. (N.O.I.C., Aberdeen, 1850/15).

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

I consider it is a wasteful use of Naval Forces to use ships as A/A defences for bases on Norwegian coast, besides rapidly becoming impossible owing to losses. Recommending that A/A batteries and R.A.F. fighter a/c's be sent and should be given priority over all other commitments on coast.

Also urging that some alternative landing place to Namsos is required in the north, such as Kongsmeon or Mosjeon. (C-in-C H.F. 1030/26.)

Operations

Norway. Force Sickle (Aandalsnes)

Situation 25/26

Situation of Force Sickle on 26.4.40. Report by Col. Gosting (M.O. 8837/40) Descirbes the situation of Sickle Force as it appeared to General Paget immediately on his arrival at Aandalsnes on the night 25/26 April.

Norwegian Naval Units

GARM

Destroyer, bombed and sunk at Bjorda, in Sogne Fiord, 26/4. Officer from this vessel was embarked in s/m CLYDE for patrol, Lieut. J.E. Haave. (S.9, 1251/5)

Air.

MANCHESTER

Attack by enemy a/c 0630/26 off Trondheim. No damage (M.O.1022/40)

Shipping

Zig-zagging in convoy

See M.07957/40 (Convoy HX 31, R. of P. from C.O. ALAUNIA, 16.4.40.)

Casualties and Defects

ARROW Rammed by German trawler

While proceeding independently from Romsdals Fjord to Scapa, intercepted a trawler at 0700 flying Dutch colours. Trawler, after stopping for examination, hoisted German colours and rammed ARROW on port side, inflicting damage rendering her unseaworthy. Trawler was engaged by ARROW and finally sunk by BIRMINGHAM. Subsequently GRIFFIN, ARROW and ACHERON spread to search for further enemy forces and at 0955

War Diary 9. 5. 1940.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik

Floating pier — Is to be shipped to Narvik in EMPIRE ABILITY (M.S.M.). To be made ready for shipment on 13/5 (D. of L.D. 0034/9)

A.A. Guns — A further 24 A.A. guns are to be consigned to Narvik in the next convoy which leaves 11/5. One battery was in the ship (BALZAC) damaged on passage through the Minch and now at Stornoway (M.SM.)

GLORIOUS — Embarking Walrus today and Hurricanes 10/5, for Narvik area.

FURIOUS — to embark Gladiators 10/5 for Narvik area.

MANELA — Flying-boat base ship. Retention in Narvik area is only temporary. (M.S.M.)

GLORIOUS — In view of withdrawal of a flotilla to Harwich adequate escort cannot be provided for TC 4.

FURIOUS AND T.C.4. — vide your 2013/1/5 in addition to screens for GLORIOUS and FURIOUS and escorts for important convoys about to sail for Narvik area. Can escorts be provided from other sources. (C. in C. H. F. 1953/8 to Adty.)

PENELOPE — Not sailing tonight in view of weather report. (PENELOPE 2217/9). As PENELOPE not sailing am proceeding to meet N.S.2 about 1030 tomorrow. (CALCUTTA 2121/9).

Cruiser — to be available at Rosyth p.m./10 to convey Norwegian Foreign Minister etc. and Sir C. Dormer, etc. to Tromso. (D.O.D.(H) 2115/9).

Magnetic Mining — Enemy aircraft observed dropping parachute mines in over 100 fathoms. (F.O.I.C. Narvik 2130/9)

Narvik

Kirkenes — 1st C.S. ordered to proceed to Tromso and communicate with Consul for latest information and then proceed to Kirkenes to investigate Admty. message 1214/7. What escort have you? Did you intercept my 0635/9 to Admty? (F.O. Narvik 1229/9). Reply - I have no escort. Your 0635/9 not intercepted by me. (F.O.I.C. 2002/9)

Casualties and Defects

ARROW (cont.) intercepted a second trawler similarly disguised. This trawler was taken in prize by GRIFFIN and proved to be fitted as a submarine supply ship. Valuable documents were recovered from the sea after jettisoning. (H.F. Destroyer Command. War Diary T.S.D. 4611/40)

U-Boat Campaign and Mining

s/m's attacked

By LOCH TULIA M08645/40
58° 48'N. 20° 47'W
Considered non-submarine, probably stern half of DAGHESTAN.

War Diary

30.4.40.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations, Aandalsnes, Aalesund, Molde

Evacuation

Pilot of one of ARK ROYAL's a/c's arrived Hatston from Aandalsnes 0655 reports last British troops embarked this morning, Aandalsnes evacuated (Hatston 0700/30 to Adty.)

From total of 3500, 490 remain at Aandalsnes (Brig. Hogg 0630/30)

Air

CALYPSO (S.T.) 2209 — Attacked by a/c 9'E.N.E. Hengh Lt. Escaped.

S.S. DICKY — (1 Bren gun, 1 Lewis gun) Fired at a/c but apparently was not attacked. 2215 54° 31'N 0° 33'W, in group convoy (I.D. Form AA)

M/L attack, Humber — Attack on Humber by M/L aircraft. Report of F.O., Humber (M. 08484/40)

Casualties

MAILLE BREZE Destroyed — At 1415 explosion occurred on board MAILLE BREZE off Tail of the Bank, caused by one of her torpedoes. Fire followed and further explosions. Fire got under by means of pumps from drifters alongside. Ship however gradually filled and finally sank at 2030 on even keel in 6 fathoms, well clear of channel. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2145/30)

My 2145/30. MAILLE BREZE casualties. 2 dead, 23 missing, 10 badly wounded, 38 slightly wounded. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1105/1)

WAR DIARIES, SUMMARIES, R. of P., &c. RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1940.

2nd Cruiser Sqdn.	Report of operations off Norway 13 to 20 April. (M/08161/40.)
NUBIAN.	R. of P. 19/4 - 23/4. at Namsos. (M.08110/40) State of Namsos. Need for A/A protection other than by ships. Excessive amount of cyphering and decyphering.
Aandalsnes.	Remarks on events observed by NLO 5th Corps, 22/4 - 1/5/40. (M.08524/40). Covers chiefly the events on land and leading up to the evacuation. Manner in which S.S.DELIUS (equipment and stores) had been loaded; refusal of her crew to bring the ship in for further unloading, on account of enemy bombing. Lack of air protection &c.
F.O.I.C., Glasgow, War Diary, 16/4 - 30/4.	Only one item. French destroyer MILAN arrived for repairs - first French war ship to enter Clyde for repairs during the war.
CARLISLE.	Report of operation Aandalsnes 19/4 - 23/4/40 M.08104/40. Firm attitude of Norwegian Ministers.
R. of P. Destroyer Patrol in Trondhjem Fjord.	24/4 - 28/4/40. M.08928/40.
NARWHAL.	Patrol report 10/4 - 17/4/40. M.07983/40. Mine-laying in Kattegat.
SEAL.	Patrol report 6/4 - 18/4/40. M.07844/40.
SWORDFISH.	Patrol report 16/4 - 28/4/40 M.08730/40
TETRARCH.	Patrol report 13/4 - 28/4/40. M.08563/40

ACHILLE French S/m.	Patrol report 18/4 - 28/4/40. M.09259/40.
Second Cruiser Squadron	War Diary 7/4 - 10/4/40. T.S.D.4163/40.
CASABIANCA, French S/m	Patrol report 18/4 - 28/4/40. M.09750/40
SOMALI.	R. of P. Convoy OHN 24 31/3 - 6/4/40. M.07242/40
V.A.C. 1st C.S.	War Diary 16/4 - 30/4/40. T.S.D.4386/40
VERSATILE.	R. of P. 18/4 - 20/4/40. M.08846/40
SPEARFISH.	R. of P. 5/4 - 17/4/40. N.I.D.1644/40
URSULA.	Patrol report 5/4 - 20/4/40 M.08250/40
Faroes.	Report of landing of R.M.Force 13/4/40 M. 010277/40.
VETERAN.	R. of P. off Norway 24/4 - 30/4. M.08813/40.
Operation Valentine	Report, 12/4 - 27/5. A.G.,R.M., No.P.P.1948.
Northern Patrol.	R. of P., 1/4 - 14/4. M.010258/40.
FURIOUS.	R. of P., 8/4 - 28/4. M.08952/40.
V.A. A/c.Carriers in ARK ROYAL.	War Diary 22 and 23/4/40.T.S.D.4211/40.
REPULSE.	R. of P., off Norway 8/4 - 14/4. M.010430/40.
Operation Rake.	R. of P., Captain Barthes, Commandant of 8th D.C.T. and L'INDOMPTABLE, 25/4/40. M.09168/40.
SHARK.	Patrol report 7/4 - 26/4. M.08387/40.

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries etc. received for April 1940.

C. in C., Portsmouth, War Diary. 15/4 to 30/4. (T.S.D.4139/40).

Convoy PS 38. C. in C. Rosyth, R. of P., 4/4 to 6/4. (M/07568/40).

F.O.I.C., Tyne, War Diary. 15/4 to 30/4. (T.S.D. 4121/40).

Reports of Consuls at Trondheim and Kristiansand. (N.I.D. 2031/40).

BIRMINGHAM. R. of P. 31/3 - 7/4/40. (M. 09314/40).

N.O.I.C., Lerwick. War Diary, April. (T.S.D.4711/40).

ARK ROYAL. R. of P. of Operation DX off Norway 24/4 - 29/4.

GRIFFIN. R. of P. 26 - 28/4/40. (M.09580/40).
Capture of German Trawler POLARES.

Convoy T.M.1.(Norway). R. of P. 24 - 27/4/40. (M.09315/40).

V.A.Battle-Cruiser Squadron. R.of P. 9/4 to 13/4. (M.010590/40).

RENOWN R. of P. 13/4 to 28/3/40. (M.011004/40).

F.O.I.C. Portland. War Diary 16/4 to 30/4. (T.S.D.4936/40).
Local Defence Measures, Degaussing Establishment, Contraband Control Base.

C.in C. Western Approaches. Summary of attacks on U-Boats in W.A. Command 23/3 - 7/4/40. (M.08949/40).

Home Fleet Destroyer Command. War Diary 1/4-15/4. (T.S.D. 4143/40).
Chiefly Norway, including 2 Narvik actions.

C. in C. Nore. War Diary 16/4 - 30/4 (T.S.D. 4158/40).
Patrols, Convoys, Enemy air attacks, Minesweeping.

TRIAD. Patrol Report 8/4 - 20/4. (M.08022/40) Norway.

SNAPPER. Patrol Report 4/4 - 19/4. (M. 07843/40). Skagerrak.

Northern Patrol. R. of P. 15/4 - 30/4. (M.010755/40).

V.A.C. 18th C.S. War Diary 1 - 15/4. (Cont.)

9/4. Force of C. in C., H.F. sighted.

Enemy a/c. sighted and engaged.

MANCHESTER, SOUTHAMPTON damaged by new mines.

GURKHA sunk.

AURORA picked up survivors, and subsequently patrolled with squadron.

10/4. Ships sighted homeward bound from Bergen, HN.25 Convoy with TARTAR and Polish destroyers.

BIRMINGHAM reported enemy a/c., bombs dropped without damage.

Squadron returned Scapa for fuel and ammunition.
At dusk. Enemy a/c. attacked Scapa. 6 a/c. brought down.

11/4. Arrangements for landing parties.

GLASGOW, SHEFFIELD, SOMALI, MASNONA, AFRIDI, SIKH, MATABELE, MOHAWK sailed for inshore operations.

12/4. SOUTHAMPTON proceeded with ESCAPADE and ELECTRA.

Transports with PROTECTOR, VOLUNTEER, WITHERINGTON, VANOC and WHIRLWIND.

MANCHESTER and SHEFFIELD from Scapa fell in with troop convoy.

13/4. VINDICTIVE, CODRINGTON, ACASTA and ARDENT joined company also FEARLESS, GRIFFIN and BRAZEN from Sulum Voe.

VALIANT and REPULSE with destroyers sighted.

14/4. To Namsos. Transports escorted by MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, VANOC, WHIRLWIND, HIGHLANDER and CAIRO.

To Vaagsfjord. Transports escorted by VALIANT, CODRINGTON, AMAZON, ACASTA, ARDENT, VOLUNTEER, WITHERINGTON, GRIFFIN, FEARLESS, BRAZEN.

15/4. GLASGOW, and SHEFFIELD shadowed by enemy a/c.

SOMALI nearby attacked off Namsos.

Orders from C. in C. landing to be deferred.

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries etc. received for April 1940.

R.A.(D) H.F. War Diary 16/4 - 30/4. T.S.D. 4611/40.

Chiefly Norway. Dutch trawlers as submarine supply ships. (See 26/4. ARROW).

German Occupation of Narvik. Report from Capt. G.L.D. Gibbs R.N.(Retd.) and letter concerning protection and evacuation of town. (N.I.D. 002380/40).

Loss of confidential books.

Remainder indexed under date.

RENOWN, R. of P. off Norwegian Coast 5 - 9 April 1940.(M.012087/40)

Covering period of operation WILFRED (Minelaying off Norwegian Coast).

Loss of GLOWWORM

Subsequent movements to intercept German Naval Force.

DORSETSHIRE War Diary for the month of April T.S.D. 5311/40.

V.A.C.18th C.S. War Diary 1/4 - 15/4/40. T.S.D. 4113/40.

2/4. Enemy air attack on Scapa.

5/4 Dispositions for Minelaying operations in Norway (WILFRED).

BIRMINGHAM for operations against enemy shipping.
MANCHESTER)
SOUTHAMPTON) Covering for O.H.N. Convoys.
SHEFFIELD)
GLASGOW from 1st C.S., to replace NORFOLK for trooping duties.

6/4. SHEFFIELD andPENELOPE arrived Scapa from covering Convoy OHN 24.

7/4. 18th C.S. with V.A.C. in MANCHESTER with SOUTHAMPTON sailed from Scapa to cover OHN 25. Firm a/s.contact, depth charges dropped.
Convoy sighted N.E. Muckle Flugga with CALCUTTA and 4 destroyers.
Report of enemy cruiser and 6 destroyers, attacked by R.A.F.

8/4. Minelaying operation in Vestfjord completed.
Sinking of GLOWWORM.
GLASGOW ordered to proceed northwards with 1st C.S.

CONTRABAND CONTROL - MEDITERRANEAN

Summary to April 1940

Italy

Economic Conditions	M.E.W., I.D. I/50/2 1/3/40. Shortage of oil and fats, leather, cotton, coal and coke. Fertilisers. M.E.W. I 351/2 1/4/40 Larger imports of petroleum than storage would seem to warrant. M.E.W. I /50/2 1/3/40. Wheat supplies ample- sugar stocks lower M.E.W. 2521/1 20/2/40. Budget deficit of 6 milliards.
Leakage of Contraband Control	M.E.W. I.D. I 351/2 1/4/40. Probable leakage of petrol to Germany. M.E.W. 2521/1 30.1.40. large consignments of Exports from Germany via Italian ports and released as Italian. M.E.W. 1/2300/10 13.11.39 & M.E.W. I 2521/1 26/3/40. Shipments from U.S.A Germany via Italian ports of cotton, oil, machine parts etc., M.E.W. I 2521/1 26.3.40. Castor seeds from Brazil. M.E.W. I 2521/1 8.4.40. suspected German fertilisers through Italy to Egypt in exchange for cotton. M.E.W. I 2521/1 19/3/40 Sales of German chemicals to India being arranged with Italy. M.E.W. I 2521/1 20/2/40 Sending live cattle to Germany and importing frozen meat from Argentine.

Greece

Trade with Germany	M.E.W. I 2521/1 16/1/40. Large secret exports of methylated spirit, Greece to Germany; stimulation of Greek exports of mineral ores. I 2521/1 23/1/40 Tobacco exports unsuccessful. I 2521/1 26.3.40. Greek Company whose manager is Krupps agent assured concession from Greek Government N.W. Lake Paratimni for mining of nickel. M.E.W. I 2521/1 8/4/40. Refusal of Greeks to export hides and skins as Germany has not taken stipulated Quantity of raisins.

Yugo-Slavia

Trade with Germany	M.E.W. 2521/1 23.12.39. Yugo Slav Military Mission owing to disappointment with previous deliveries giving no further armament orders to Germany. M.E.W. 2521/1 23.1.40. Yugo-Slav Government forced by Germany to deliver 100 tons antimony regulus as part payment for urgent war material. M.E.W. I 2521/1. 22.2.40. Yugo-Slav firms refusing to supply hemp to Germany and approaching British authorities.

Turkey

Trade with Germany	M.E.W. I 2521/1 8/4/40. Refusing imports from Italy without certificate of origin

Bulgaria

Trade with Germany	M.E.W. I 2521/1 20/2/40 Germany reports to have purchased site in vicinity of aerodrome at Varna for storage of Russian petroleum from Vladivostok. M.E.W. I 2521/1 19/3/40 Efforts to reduce exports to Germany M.E.W. I 351/24 9/4/40. Evidence Germany intends to import petroleum products via Bulgaria from U.S.A., U.S.S.R. tanks hired from Italy being used as storage tanks at Bulgarian ports.

Roumania

Trade with Germany Petroleum Products and grain	M.E.W. 2521/ 22/2/40. Germans erecting 4 petroleum resevoirs at Giugo. U.K. engaging Roumanian seamen who had previously been taken on by Germans. M.E.W. I 2521/1. 19/3/40. Germans attempting to buy up petroleum concerns- not wholly successfully. M.E.W. I 2521/1 8/4/40. First Danube steamers March 12. Germany to pay for tugs in SWISS francs. Cereals to be sent by rail to Germany. Roumanian storage full. M.E.W. I 351/26 14/9/39 Germany controlling 40% of tanker vessel- normal capacity of fleet 1½ million tons, possibly 2 million tons under pressure.

Sweden

Iron Ore Trade with Germany	N.I.D. 01507/39 Swedish Iron Ore Trade (Comdr. Poland's report) M.E.W. 1/610 22.9.39. Germany supplies of local iron & wood pulp M.E.W. 1/81 27.10.39 Germany. Supplies of iron ore 1939-40 CZX 6114 111 6.10.38. Report on the handling and export of iron ore at the port of Narvik. M.E.W. 1/81 27.10.39. Shortage might become acute in May '40. M.E.W. 1181/1 27.11.39. 9 million tons of ore must be imported from Sweden in war-time.

U.S.S.R.
Supplies to Germany

Via Vladivostok
M.E.W. 10/2300. 13/11/39. Cargoes despatched from far East to Germany - rubber, tin, wood, oil, cotton, tea and pepper - German exports via Vladivostok camouflaged I 2521/1 5/3/40 7000 tons of rubber from Batavia consigned to Germany 2521/1 20/2/40 Cycles of suspected German origin sent via Vladivostok to Mexico M.E.W. I 2521/1 12/3/40 Tin from U.S.A. believed for Germany Coffee from Brazil via Kobe.

Via Black Sea
M.E.W. O.P. No 12 I 514.1. 18.12.39 Germany owns 6 coalburners on Black Sea with a tonnage of 21,804. Transhipment to Danubian vessels and carriage to Germany arranged by German agents. Manganese ore and tobacco imported cotton goods exported by this route. These ships may be armed. M.E.W. I 2521/1 8.12.39. Exchange of machinery from Skoda works against Russian oil M.E.W. I 351/31. 31.12.39 oils via Ooessa very little delivered.

Deliveries of Ore, Oil, etc.
M.E.W. 1/600/31/1 17.1.40 Limited amount of cotton - 900 tons of petroleum held at Przemysl doubtful when delivered. No deliveries of iron ore by 17/1/40 - no copper pyrites - 50,000 tons of manganese to end of December. 12,000 tons of phosphates - 8,000 tons asbestos - some grain. High prices demanded except for flax and timber. M.E.W. 1/600/13/31 30/11/39 Great difficulty in obtaining metals from Russia M.E.W. 31/1/40 Soviet not carrying out German instructions and Germany failing to provide rolling stock. N.I.D. XIA 6.2.40 33,872 tons petroleum may have been delivered by end of January, these being the first deliveries.

Transport

On 29/9/39 1 ship was being loaded under pre-war contract. From that date to 24/10 39 there were no sailings by the West Coast ore route c.f. R.A. (S) 1123/3/10/39 to C. in C., H.F. Information received at Admiralty that German ore trade is now diverted overland from Narvik. Between 24/10 & 15/11 2 ships arrived and 3 left. Late in November the situation crystalliased and during the period 16-21 Nov 5 ships arrived to load, and sailed route between 20-24 Nov. Between 25/11 & 12/12 6 ships arrived and 6 cleared. M.E.W. I 2521/1 23/3/40 4.2 million tons ore promised from Luleo ~~w~~wing 1940 600,000 per month May-November. Oxelosand might deliver 1.5 million tons. M.E.W. I 2521/1 12/3/40 deficit on deliveries during 1st 2 months 1940.

War Diary. 11.4.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/M's Reported.

Estimated dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1152/11).

0900 — U-Boat reported 8 miles south of Aberystwyth, sighted from shore. (C-in-C., W.A., 1142/11).

1456 — Intercept, De CUSEL sighted S/M 51°4'N., 5°45'W. (1456/11). 51°04'N., 05°40'W. VERSATILE and trawlers ordered to attack. (C-in-C., W.A., 1621/11).

1335 — MARMION reported periscope 1½ miles E. of Kentish Knock lightship. SHELDRAKE to search. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1725/11).

2107 — D.F., 65°N., 10°40'E., probably U-boat. (D.D.I.C. 2146/11).

0905 — By A/C M.B.T.S. 3522 course 250 speed 9. (A/C, 224 Sqdn, 0905/11).

1611 — A/C sighted S/M in WPOX 4555 at 1611/11. (C-in-C., Rosyth, 0212/12).

S/M's Attacked.

By MTB 04 and A/C. — 122° Kentish Knock L.V. one mile (F.O.I/C. Harwich 1903/11).

By TARTAR — 1800, escorting a convoy, two attacks on doubtful contact 5 miles N.E. Copinsay. (A.S.W.D, 221).

War Diary. 11.4.40.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

NORDLAND	Trawler, arrived in prize. (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1100/11).
BLANKENBURG	Trawler, arrived in prize. (C.C.S.O., Kirkwall, 1102/11).
IONIA	Humber Radio intercept, torpedoed in 58°50'N., 11°30'E. (F.O., Humber, 0810/11).
ROSAFRED	My 2335/10. Sailing postponed. (N.C.S.O., Antwerp, 1545/11).
AUGUST LEONHARDT.	2593 tons, sunk off Great Belt by SEALION. (I.C., 0420/40).

South Atlantic.

Situation.	Situation of 10 German ships. (A.N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1239/11).

North Atlantic.

WINNETOU	Sailed from Las Palmas at 2100/9, believed to have full cargo. (D.D.I.C., 1915/11).
BRAKE MAX ALBRECHT	Tanker (9925 tons) which has been taking on oil is about to send 30 tons of lubricating oil in drums overland to Ferrol to tanker MAX ALBRECHT (584 tons) (Consul, Vigo 1210/11).

America & West Indies.

ANTILLA	To receive 11/4, 135 tons fuel oil and 75 tons Diesel oil, also lubricating oil. Now painted to resemble a British ship. (S.O.(I), Kingston, 0513/11).
EISENACH) WESER)	Local press reports shore leave stopped at Port Simon, Costa Rica (S.O.(I), Kingston, 0824/11).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Formosa	NSHQ Ottawa's 1122/30/3. Ship now at Manzanillo loading copper and lead. (S.O.(I), Jamaica, 1740/11).
Light Buoys.	My 1731/10. Seven light buoys could be delivered at Halifax 21 days after order to accelerate construction was given. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1058/11).
HELGA	Danish, taken refuge in Santago de Cuba (Consul-General, Habana, Cuba, 1738/11).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.).

S/M exercise Area. Admty 1914/10, inclusion of additional S/M exercise open round Italian Coast. Concur 1757/11).

Swedish etc. ships to be released. Swedish, Estonian, Finnish and Latvian ships may be released if bound for countries other than the Northern Countries given in my 1730/9 and 1651/10 (D.E.W.D., 1907/11 to C-in-C., Med.).

Corfu. Report that Italians preparing to seize it (S.O. (I) Malta, 1945/11).

Rumours of Italian action. Geneva telegram 10 to F.O. Greek Govt. have had same information from Rome and Sofia and Geneva also, but it is Italy intended to seize Corfu. If Italian intention confirmed initial action against Salonica may probably be taken by Italian naval forces. (N.A., Athens, 1120/11).
Yugo-slav General Staff informs me considerable Italian naval activity this morning off Corfu. No truth in assertion that Germany has demanded police rights in Yugo-slav sector of Danube. (AN.A., Belgrade, 1355/11).
My 1355/11. Yugoslav General Staff reports (1) No Italian tropp movements at Zara, (2) no reinforcements have gone to Albania and no troop concentration at Bari, (3) Italy has not suggested laying mines at Otranto Straits, nor have Germany demanded bases on Adriatic in anticipation of Allies interception of their shipping as rumoured. (ANA., Belgrade, 2200/11).

China.

Patrols. Admty 1347/9. In addition to patrolling in Dutch E.I. and off Japan, LIVERPOOL has proceeded to patrol off Manila and KANIMBLA off Yangtze. (C-in-C., China, 0739/11).

Scandinavian Shipping. Additional arrivals now 11 Danish Norwegian ships in harbour. All Danish ships and cargoes being seized as enemy property, Norwegian vessels still refused clearances. Believed 40 others along China Coast. (Press, Times, from Hong Kong, 1750/11).

Chinese owned coasters. My 1143/3/3 and your 04442/3/4. Transfer to neutral flag would be embarrasing in relation to suggested transfer of German ships in Japanese waters to German flag. No action to be taken. (Hd. of M., 1731/11 to C-in-C., China).

Norwegian and Danish ships. My 1545/9. To be intercepted by ships at sea and sent into Allied port under prize cover. See Adty. 1630/10 (C-in-C., China, 01352/11).

Danish ships. Estimated dispositions (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1105/11).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Convoys. Positions 1300/11 (D.C., 0312/11).

Danish Ship. Requesting whether Sec. for Colonies telegram 10/4 ordering seizure in prize of Danish ship and cargoes overides Admlty. 1630/10. (F.O.C.N.S. 1814/11).

KOSMOS, Norwegian. Asking for message from whaling vessel KOSMOS to be sent through British Consul, Gothenburg. (Consul, Temriffe, 2130/11).

Ocean convoys etc. D.C. 1829/11.

Norwegian ships to be released. Your 1110/0. List of ships held by Union authorities. Request confirmation that Norwegian ships chartered to Allies and neutrals may be released (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1038/11 to C-in-C., S.A.).
Your 1038/11. Norwegian ships chartered to Allies and neutrals may be released provided that they are not trading to Scandinavian, Danish or Baltic ports, vide my 1121/10. (C-in-C., S.A.,2325/11).
Your 1038/11. Intention is to hold for the present all Norwegian ships in British ports or subsequently arriving there. (Hd. of M., 0054/12 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
Admty 0054/12. Cancel my 2325/11. (C-in-C., S.A. 0040/12).

Danish ships. Danish ships in neutral ports to be persuaded and encouraged to sail under Allied protection for Allied port as soon as possible (C-in-C., S.A., 0911/11).

Scandinavian ships. C-in-C., S.A. 0857/11 see 12/4.
Danish Consul has instructed masters to remain in port. If I am unsuccessful in persuading masters to leave please advise best means to arrange transfer of ships to Icelandic or other registry. Re. Norwegian ships (N.C.S.O., Buenos Aires 1840/11).

Mediterranean.

Swedish etc. Shipping to be sent in. All westbound Swedish, Finnish, Latvian and Estonian ships not bound for British, French or Egyptian ports to be sent in on pretext of contraband or export control. (C-in-C., Med., 1015/11).

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.	Shipping.
	Situation at 2000/11 (C-in-C., W.A., 1304/11).
NS.1.	Sailed for Scapa (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0245/11).
HN.25.	39 ships, was east of Orkneys escorted by 4 destroyers 0730/11 (D.C.N.S. 220). Left Norwegian waters just in time to avoid seizure of Bergen by Germans. See 9/4.
GT.3.	Will sail 1230/12. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1055/11).
TG.3.	Will sail p.m./13. (" " " ").
ON.25	Returned Methil 1230/11 (N.C.SO., Methil 1415/11). BROKE ordered to meet. (C-in-C., W.A., 1226/11).
ONG.25.	Should consist of 32 ships. (A.C.W.A., 1234/11).
TM-MT	No TM tonight, no MT tomorrow. (C-in-C., Rosyth, 1240/11).
OG.25.	Situation 2000/11. (A.C.W.A., 1331/11). Sailing telegram (A.C.W.A., 1236/11).
FS.1.	AMC VILLE D'AIGER to convoy 16/4 for Clyde. (D.C., 1745/11).
OB.129	Route (C-in-C., W.A. 0957/11).
H.G.F.26	Sailing telegram (D.T.D., 1025/11).
TRITON	Norwegian, intercepted 61°46'N., 25°34'W. at 1800. Captain undertook to proceed to Clyde. (SALOPIAN, 2200/11).
Scandinavian Ships to be sent in.	My 0022/11. All westbound Danish and Norwegian ships to be sent in, except that Norwegian ships chartered to neutrals and not trading to Scandinavia, Danish or Baltic ports should not be sent in except by normal contraband or export control. (F.O.C.N.P., 1600/11).
Bunkers.	My 1347/9 and 1326/10. At neutral ports where there are bunker depots under Allied Control, depot owners intructed to give Danish and Norwegian vessels sufficient bunkers to reach nearest Allied bunkering port only. (D.T.D., 2316/11).
Danish orders.	My 1347/9. Copenhagen has broadcast to all Danish merchant ships to put into Italian or Spanish ports and report arrival and try eventually to reach home port. (D.D.I.C., 2148/11).

War Diary. 12. 4. 40.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

VELOCITAS mined, sunk. Dutch 197 tons, mined at 2030 in 57° 25' N., 01° 50' E., about 15 miles E. from the North Foreland, and sunk. Was 6 miles out of the swept channel at the time. 3 men missing. 2 survivors landed by British MAVIS at Flushing 13/4. (N.C.S.O. Rotterdam 1914/13).

STANCLIFF sunk. Dutch, 4511 tons, from Narvik for Middlesbrough sunk by enemy submarine at 0900 in approx. position 45 miles N.E. of Uust Island, Shetland 16 survivors of crew of 38 landed Haroldswick. (A.C.O.S. 1240/16) 61° 13' N. 0° 34' E. (I.C. 0423/40).

Submarines reported. Estimated dispositions.

A number of U-boats still appear to be in North Sea between 58° N. and 61° N. and others are further to the North off Norwegian coast.

These are patrols off Orkneys and 1 or more U-boats near Farres (D.D.I.C. 1206/12).

War Diary. 12. 4. 40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

NOADLAND — Trawler. Sailed for Aberdeen under Naval Control. See my 1100/11, 1298, 2150/11, Admiralty. 1844/11 (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1420/12).

North Atlantic.

BALKAN, STORMARN — At Bilbas, reported fully laden with iron ore 5/4 and ready for sea (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1909/12).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (Contd.).

Scandinavian Ships. 14 Norwegian and some Danish ships are en route for W. Pacific ports. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1426/12). Press report U.S.A. Black Diamond Line has announced that its ships sailing under Scandinavian flag between U.S.A. and Scandinavia and Holland are to be withdrawn.

HX.35. Assume Norwegian ships in Halifax for convoy to U.K. and France and any subsequent ones are to proceed as originally intended. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0948/12).

ORION My 1211/12. To be prepared to sail for Gibraltar at short notice (D.O.D.(F), 1234/12).

CAROLINE MAERSK Danish tanker, sailed Port Arthur (Texas) 4/4 for Malaya. To be brought into British port if possible (D.T.D. 1952/12).

HELGA Danish. Reported (B.1). refuged in Santiago de Cata. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1054/12).

Chilean S.S. Co's ships. Sail under Norwegian flag. Diversion to British port will place company in most serious situation. Risk of German application for legal embargo if ships allowed to come forward to Chilean ports. (Santiago 1835/12 to Consul Gen., New York).

Norwegian Tankers. List outward bound from Europe on your station (A.C.N.S. to C.in C., A.W.I. 1208/12).

Jamaica Force. My 1139/11. DUNEDIN acting as F.O. Jamaica Force with steam up on Curacoa Patrol as long as fuel permits. DESPATCH proceeds forthwith to patrol approach to Colon. Danish shipping to be intercepted and directed to proceed to Kingston, Jamaica. If observations indicate orders not obeyed, Danish vessels to be taken in manned. (C.in C., A.W.I., 2230/12).

East Indies.

Norwegian Ships. Admiralty 1347/9, and 2108/9. Request decision whether

(a) Norwegian ships chartered and neutrals and arriving voluntarily at Allied ports are to be detained.
(b) Norwegian ships under Allied charter are to be allowed to proceed on their normal voyages after calling at our Allied port. (C.in C.E.1 0623Z/12).

My 1037Z/11, Bahrein, delete Norwegian EVITA. (S.O.1 Colombo, 1007/12).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.(Contd.).

Yugslav General Staff and M. of Marine not apprehensive of Italian military action, but latter suggest Italy may be attempting to cause move of British men of war to Mediterranean in order to relieve German difficulties in Norway. (A.N.A., Belgrade, 1300/12).

Jewish Immigration. Greek S.S. POPI examined Haifa 31/3, no evidence any sale taken place. (C-in-C., Med., 2033/12).

China.

Danish ships. Your 1122/11. Danger is that Danish ships reaching neutral ports may successfully be ~~x~~ claimed by representatives of Danish Govt. acting under German presure. Even if they continue trading under Danish flag earnings will probably find their way to Germany. Wherever possible Danish ships at present in neutral ports should be induced to proceed to Allied port, or if this is not possible intercepted and sent in. (Hd. of M., 0053/12 to C-in-C., China).

Scandinavian ships. Positions (C.S. Singapore 0932/12). List detained in Malaya area. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0932/12). Report from Batavia that Norwegian Consul General is instructing all Norwegian ships in N.E.I. to proceed to Singapore (C-.S. Singapore D519/12).

LIVERPOOL) HOBART) My 1211/12, C-in-C., E.I. 1126/9. To be prepared to sail for Aden at short notice. (D.O.D.(F) 1235/12). To sail for Aden as soon as convenient. (D.O.D.(F) 1828/12).

CORNFLOWER No longer required by Hong Kong R.N.V.R. Propose to sell locally (C-in-C., Hong Kong 0952/12).

America & West Indies.

Norwegian Ships. Your 1053/10. Ship should be intercepted and sent in unless can be persuaded to place herself voluntarily under Canadian protection at Erquinalt. Once there she should be detained in view of possibility that Germans may secure possession in name of puppet Govt. in Norway if she ~~x~~reaches Japanese port. (Hd. of M., 0055/12 to N.S.A.Q., Ottawa).

War Diary. 12.4.40
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Detention of Norwegian Tankers.

Admty 0054/12. Secty for Defence states continued detention of Norwegian and Danish tankers causing concern. Asking as to probable duration. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1725/12).
Admty 0052/12. Do not anticipate difficulty xx with Norwegians once their insurance is assured (see N.C.S.O's 1840/11). Danish ship owner's conference now sitting in New York. (N.A., Buenos Aires 1825/12).
N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires 1610/10 and 1140/11. Presume G.H.Q., N.C.S.O., Buenos Aires, consulting you in all questions of transfers of Danish and Norwegian ships to other nationalities and that you are receiving instructions from British Ambassador. (C-in-C., S.A., to N.A. Buenos Aires, 0945/12).

Force H. Danish & Norwegian ships.

To leave Freetown at 1800 to-day. Orders. Object to intercept Norwegian and Danish ships and locate Force H. in a central position against any enemy raider attempting to enter S. Atlantic Danish ships who refuse to comply should be seized in prize. (C-in-C., S.A., 1201/12).

If there is any apprehension among captains of Norwegian or Danish ships that that may be captured on high seas by German raiders, should be informed that there are British forces patrolling in S. Atlantic and that passage to Freetown will be safeguarded. (C-in-C., S.A., 1215/12).

Mediterranean.

Norwegian ships.

Plying between Allied or Egyptian ports may continue voyage provided masters give undertaking not to call at neutral ports (C-in-C., Med. 1411/12).

STALHEIM

Norwegian to be sent from Jaffa to Gib. under armed guard. F.O.C.N.K. to provide relief armed guard at Gib. for Liverpool in next convoy. (D.E.W.D. 2158/12).

AFRICAN REEFER

Danish, ex-San Francisco, has 4 months' army supply of dried fruit for Egypt. (S.O.(I)., Alexandria. 1326/12).

Italian moves.

Italian manoeuvres, not necessarily belligerent seem to be in preparation. Italian Military Attache told General Staff of fear of possible Allied landing Salonica. British Vice-Consul, Dubrovnik 12/4 reports Italians have mined entrance to Gulf of Valona and southern approach to Saseno as well as along Durazzo and San Giovanni Di Medua.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

RESOURCE)
DAINTY)
DIAMOND)

Remain at Gibraltar pending further instruction (1st S.L. 0958/12).

Merchant ships.

All Norwegian and Danish ships to be sent in. All westbound Swedish, Latvian, Estonian, Finnish not bound for British and French ports to be sent in. Armed guards to be put on board if necessary. (F.O.C.N.A. 1103/12).

Ocean Convoys.

D.C. 1950/12).

Norwegian ships in convoys.

Norwegian BRUSE JARL to be sailed in HG.26. Other norwegians may be included in convoy. (D.T.D., 1636/12 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Scandinavian Merchant ships.

Your 0857/11. Do all you can to persuade Norwegian and Danish ships to sail for an Allied port. (Hd. of M. 0052/12 to C-in-C., S.A.).
Positions of Scandinavian ships (S.O.(I) Capetown 1508/12). Continued detention of Norwegian and Danish tankers is causing concern as majority of supplies for Union of S.Africa are carried in them (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1725/12). N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires reports there are 25 Scandinavian or Baltic ships in R. Pluta and other Argentine ports and probable German authorities will attempt to claim them if they do not sail within a day or two. This applies particularly to Danish ships. Desirable they should leave at once or transfer to other flag, preferably British. (C-in-C., S.A. 0857/11).
Your 1840/11. Message to Danish ships to proceed Italy, Spain, etc., made under German dictation and should be disregarded. (D.T.D. 1545/12, to Consul, Buenos Aires.
My 1121/10 cancelled. Repeats Admlty 0110/12 re Norwegian ships. Suggest pretexts (a) to receive latest orders from Norwegian Govt. who are our Allies, (b) obtain best protection against armed raiders. Every endeavour to be made to prevent ships complying with inspired German broadcasts from Copenhagen. (C-in-C., S,A. 1701/12).

S/M base.

C.O. report that Argentine S.S. JOSEFINAS sailed Necochea 11/4 intends to unload oil products in Trinidad E Island (S.O(I) Montevideo 2221/12).

Whale factory ships.

Latest information. (D.T.D. 1628/12 to C-in-C S.A., etc.,

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.).

Broadcast to Danish ships.	Broadcast message from all naval stations to Danish merchant ships at sea:- It is in the interest of your owners, yourself and your crew to put your vessel immediately under allied protection. Liberal compensation will be paid for the use of Danish ships. The British Admiralty strongly advises you to make for the nearest allied port without delay whatever your present position. Messages from Denmark are all dictated by Germany. (A.C.N.S., 2349/12).
ANNAM. Danish.	Asking for advance information so that destroyer can intercept her. (D.T.D. to Consul, Rotterdam, 1829/12).

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.).

Broadcast to Danish ships. Broadcast message from all naval stations to Danish merchant ships at sea:- It is in the interest of your owners, yourself and your crew to put your vessel immediately under allied protection. Liberal compensation will be paid for the use of Danish ships. The British Admiralty strongly advises you to make for the nearest allied port without delay whatever your present position. Messages from Denmark are all dictated by Germany. (A.C.N.S., 2349/12).

ANNAM. Asking for advance information so that
Danish. destroyer can intercept her. (D.T.D. to Consul, Rotterdam, 1829/12).

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.	Shipping.
Fighter escorts.	Over convoys south of Firth of Forth will be discontinued as temporary measure. Each sector will have one flight of fighters ready on ground. A/S air escort will continue as before (C-in-C., Rosyth 1515/11).
GT.3.	Sailed 1230. Escort (N.C.S.O., Humber 1210/12).
MT.49	Arrived (N.O.I.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne, 0615/12).
HN.25	Neutral ships may proceed to their onward destinations but must do so under escort and must enter the ports ordered (D.T.D. 1241/12).
MT	Will leave Methil 13/4 close escort 1st A/S.
TM	Group. No TM will sail tongith (C-in-C., Rosyth, 1128/12).
U.S. Ships.	American Black Diamond line announces their vessels which after outbreak war sailed sub Scandinavian flag will be withdrawn ex route U.S. to Scandinavia, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Antwerp. 2 steamers Rotterdam sailing respectively April 17th and 29th United States not returning same route. Press Rotterdam, 12/4.
Norwegian shipping to be left alone.	My 1134/11 and 0546/11 to F.O.C. 18 C.S. Norwegian ships should for present be left alone. 2 Norwegian ships carrying troops sailed from Bodo last night for Mosjoen (Mosjoen) under escort of (?) (C-in-C., H.F., 0938/12 to FOC ICS).
"Squirm"	Code word should M EW be at any time put out of action (Adty 1110/12 to C-in-C., Med,etc.).
Norwegian ships to be sent in.	My 1600/11. Cancel all after first entrance. All Norwegian ships should be sent to a British or Allied Port. (F.O.C.N.P. 1010/12). Request instructions for Norwegian ships in Swedish ports can be issued on authority of President Hambro (A.N.A. Stockholm 1221/12). All Norwegian ships are to be sent in to an Allied port on some protest or other. All Norwegian ships in British ports or arriving or sent in subsequently are to be detained until further orders (Hd. of M. 0110/12).
In Swedish ports.	Your 1221/12. Appears to be no alternative at present to Norwegian ships remaining in Swedish ports (D.T.D. 1916/12).
Danish Trawlers.	N.O.I.C. Aberdeen's 1444/12. Danish trawlers are to be detained. (D.T.D., 2030/12).

War Diary

13.4.40.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

1233 — 3 destroyers ordered to hunt U-boat in West Fiord (intercept from C. in C., H.F.) (I.C., 0420/40).

1445 — 59° to 60° N., 0° to 1° W., 35 E. of Fair Island, position indefinite (I.C., 0420/40).

0200 — U-boat in 49:13 N., 4:55 W., stopped Dutch M.V. JAN BRONS but allowed her to proceed. (C.C.O., Weymouth, 1950/13).

Submarines Attacked

By aircraft from WARSPITE, near Narvik. U-boat bombed (I.C., 0420/40)(A.S.W.D. 223).

War Diary

13.4.40.
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

FEODOSIA — Intercept. Will arrive Lubeck 0800/ Scapa W/T 0616/13).

16 German ships in port. Customs officer states ordered by Germany to remain in port. (Gottenburg 1430/13).

South Atlantic

WINDHUK — A.2, German Embassy doubt outcome of appeal case, ordered ship to cut and run.

North Atlantic

GEDANIA — (see 14/4).

China

NAUMBURG — Being painted grey. (Capt. O/S Singapore, 0418Z/13).

CASSEL — Attacked again and vital parts removed. (Capt. O/S Singapore, 0418Z/13).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies (continued)

RANPURA for escort force — To equip with winter clothing at Plymouth and sail for Halifax Convoy Escort Force to arrive not later than 26/4. (D.O.D.(F) 1733/13).

East Indies

HOBART — Sailed from Colombo for Aden, due 18/4. (C. in C., E.I. 1057/13).

China

Dutch precautions — All shore leave Dutch Navy at Surabaya stopped pm/12. A.1 (C.O.I.S. Far East 0507Z/13).

Norwegian Ships — Norwegian Legation, Yokohama, warning their ships to avoid neutral ports unless unavoidable and make allied ports. (S.O.I., Shanghai, 1329Z/13).

Danish Ships — Treatment of (Hd. of M., 0014/13 to Ambassador, Tokyo).

Australia

Norwegian & Danish M.Vs. — Situation on Australian station (Australian C'wealth N.B. 1810Z/13).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (continued)

Scandinavian Ships — French are holding all Scandinavian Baltic ships in port pending further instructions (Mr. Knight, Tunis No. 4R. 13/4).

Threat to Corfu — Norwegian ships at Alexandria (R.A.I.C., Alexandria, 2306/13). Allied Service Attaches, Athens, consider rumours concerning threatened attack against Corfu originate from Italian sources via various routes, particularly Yugoslavia. Greek authorities, while suspicious, see no immediate menace. They have however today sent 3 submarines and 2 destroyers ostensibly to exercise in Gulf of Corinth. (War Office, 1715/13).

Submarine Zone — My 1717/8. Agreement to include additional Submarine exercise zone round Italian coast now in force. (Rome, 1140/13).

Roumanian Oil — Great difficulty in obtaining fuel oil for tankers in Roumania (N.A., Bucharest, 1807/13).

America & West Indies

ORION — My 1234/12. Request you will sail ORION for Gibraltar as soon as convenient (D.O.D.(F) 0132/13).

Bermuda Convoy Force — My 1633/13. One steam propelled A.M.C. of Northern Patrol will be required to join Bermuda Convoy Escort Force, her place being taken by CHESHIRE on completion of refit Liverpool about 1/5. (D.O.D.(F) 2156/13).

Dutch West Indies — In view of possible German aggression against Holland, War Office is being approached regarding desirability of providing protective forces to proceed from existing West Indies Garrisons to Curacao and Aruba. Request you will consider in conjunction with Admiral Antilees provisions of transport of troops should necessity arise and to measures for security of islands against raider attack. (Hd. of M. to C. in C. A. & W.I., 1736/13).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (continued)

Danish Ships — Your 1825/12. C. in C. S.A. 0857/11 and N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires 1840/11. Instructions for provisional transfer of Danish ships in River Plate to British Registry if they undertake to sail for nearest British or French port. (Hd. of M., 1252/13).

Norwegian Tankers — Admiralty 0114/13. Pending further instructions do not intend to prevent Norwegian tankers chartered to British, American or local Government oil companies from entering South American ports, as their oil fuel will be required to enable Allied and Scandinavian ships to bunker before leaving. (R.A.S.A.D., 1401Z/13).

SLF Convoys Suspended. — Decided to suspend SLF convoys for present. Instructions for disposal of surplus A.M.C.'s will follow. They will replace warships withdrawn from Halifax Excort Force, etc. (A.C.N.S., 1633/13).

Mediterranean

Electrical Torpedoes — Your 1748/4, proposal to co-operate in development of electrical torpedoes. Reply for Turkish General Staff. (D.N.I. to N.A., Ankara, 2140/13).

ARK ROYAL — To be temporarily under command of S.O. Force de Raid, which may be returning shortly to Western Mediterranean. Request your views. (D.O.D.(F) 2213/13 to C. in C., Med.).

BRUSE JARL — Norwegian, detained by French Navy, has perishable goods for London. (S.O.I., Malta, 1339/13).

EASTLEIGH, Timber at Galatz. — Admiralty 1407/10. Employment of EASTLEIGH Propose sending her and a second steamer to Galatz for timber awaiting shipment to Alexandria. (P.S.T.D., Egypt, 1256/13).

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Norwegian Ships at sea. Message from Admiralty. Your ship is held covered by British Govt. against War and Marine risks for voyage to destination if a British or French port or to nearest suitable British or French port and for 48 hours afterwards provided no call is made at neutral port en route. Cargo also covered. You are advised to proceed to nearest British or Allied port. (D.T.D. 2200/13).

North Atlantic

Danish and Norwegian Ships Releases signalled by M.E.W. refer to cargoes only. Actual sailing is matter for F.O.C.N.A. acting under A.M.0114/13 (D.E.W.D. 1207/13).

Landing of Mails Admiralty 1916/11. Submit Las Palmas and Teneriffe be included in list of places where landing of mails is prohibited. (S.O.I., Gib., 1252/13). Approved (D.T.D., 1453/14).

VALKYRIEN Danish tug, to be at disposal of Admiralty working from Lisbon. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1208/13, 1716/13).

French Forces ~~Burgan~~ Convoys and Patrols, positions 1300/13. (D.C., 0209/13).

South Atlantic

JERVIS BAY)
COMORIN) To sail for Bermuda soon as practicable (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C. S.A., 2155/13).

ESPERANCE BAY My 1633/13. Request you will sail ESPERANCE BAY for Halifax to arrive not later than 30/4. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A., 1732/13).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (continued)

Scandinavian Ships Following instructions supercede all previous instructions about treatment of Danish and Norwegian ships (Hd. of M., 0114/13).

Instructions for treatment of Danish and Norwegian ships and neutrals bound Scandinavian ports. (V.A.N.P., 1751/13). My 0114/13. Any Danish ship met with at sea transferred to a neutral flag on or after 9/4 should be sent into a French port in accordance with Admiralty 1308/18/1 (Hd. of M., 1955/13).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

ALFA — Danish, reported due to leave Rotterdam today with coal, German pilot on board. (D.N.I., 0228/13).

M.E.W. Releases — Releases of Danish and Norwegian ships signalled by M.E.W. must be regarded as referring to cargoes only. Actual sailing is a matter for Cs in C. under A.M. 0114/13. (D.E.W.D. 1535/13).

Norwegian Tankers — List at sea carrying bunker oil for various oversea ports. (A.C.N.S. 1141/13).

Convoys

Positions	(D.C., 2021/13).
HX 30	On time at R.V. all present except marine casualty KING EDWARD. (D.T.D., 1225/13).
FS 45	Cancelled (C. in C., Rosyth 1844/13,1832/13)
HG 26	Sailing telegram (F.O.C.N.A. 1946/13).
SLF convoys	Suspended for the present (A.C.N.S., 1623/13)
Slow convoys	All slow convoys are cancelled for the present (N.C.S.O. Humber, 2219/13).

Dutch Ports banned — No British or Allied ships to be sailed for Dutch ports until further orders. (D.T.D., 1250/13).

Iceland ships etc. — Customs authorities hold detailed instructions about treatment of Icelandic, Greenland and Faroes ships in U.K. Naval authorities are to conform. (Hd. of M., 1351/13).

ANNAM — Captain willing to sail for U.K. but vessel arrested by Netherlands Trading Co. for claim against East Asiatic Co. (Consul-Gen., Rotterdam, 1646/13).

War Diary

14.4.40.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Estimated Dispositions

No indications of any change except that one is off Firth of Tay or Firth of Forth. (D.D.I.C., 1228/14).

Submarines Reported

0905 — By D/F off Firth of Tay (D.D.I.C., 0940/14).

0712 — By Aircraft in MBTS 4400 (C. in C., Rosyth, 0900/14).

0400 — Reported locally off Engenes 149 GQMO 5. (SOUTHAMPTON, 0850/14).

1505 — Have lost touch with enemy submarine in 62:35 N., 05:25 E. (off Aalesund, Norway). (Aircraft 240 Sqdn., 1505/14).

Submarines Attacked

By aircraft in MBTS 4400. Bombs fell astern Presumed unsuccessful. (Donibristle, no T.O.O./14).

War Diary

14.4.40.
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

China

STASSFURT — Re-attacked 12/4, protesting (B.2). (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0429/14).

South Atlantic

WINDHUK — Repeating ANA Rio de Janeiro, 1503/13 (C. in C., S.A., 0351/14).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

SKAGERRAK	Tanker 6044 tons intercepted by SUFFOLK in 64:36 N., 2:28 E. bound for Murmansk. Scuttled herself. Crew of 43 on board SUFFOLK. (I.C. 0420 and 0421/40).
HARZBURG	Trawler, arrived Gottenhafen (Gdynia) am. (I.C., 0421).
SUDSEE	Arrived Liepaja with coal. (Vice-Consul, Liepaja, 1820/14).
EMPIRE ABILITY	(ex. German UHENFELS) left Southend for Southampton. (N.C.S.O., Thames, 0855/14).

South Atlantic

WINDHUK	A.N.A. Rio de Jameiro reports A.2 she may cut and run being in doubt of outcome of appeal case 15/4. Possible parts of machinery removed were replaced clandestinely (C. in C., S.A., 0351/14).

North Atlantic

GEDANIA	Admiral, Africa, reports sailed from Las Palmas p.m. 13/4. (F.O.C.N.A. 0816/14 to MOOLTAN). Your 1816/14 and your 1228/14, Las Palmas reports 1733/15 no German ships have left Las Palmas since WINNETOU sailed on 9/4. (D.D.I.C., 1017/16).

America & West Indies

DURAZZO	Venezuela group negotiating for purchase (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1042/14).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies.

Norwegian Captains Curacao reports reluctant to take advice on account of absence of news of landing of British in Norway. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1020/14).

Curacao and Aruba Your 1736/13/4. In view of vulnerability of Curacao and Aruba refineries to sea bombardment, considered naval patrols particularly by submarines would provide best protection. Infantry from Jamaica and Martinique Garrisons useful for internal security. Desirability of rapid action indicated by Ambassador Washington 519 to F.O. (C. in C., A. & W.I., 1443/14).

Aruba reports Emans Bank, late agent for Hora Line, Hamburg American Line and Lloyds endeavouring to intercept Norwegian ships and probably Danish by cable said to originate from Lloyd's London. (S.O.I., Kingston, 0914/14).

SPINANGER LISS Norwegian tankers, to sail to Gibraltar with small military guard 1600/15. (Capt. I.C. Jamaica, 1620/14).

Light Buoys Your 1731/10 and 1058/11. Request 7 light buoys only be shipped to Bermuda soon as possible. (C. in C., A.W.I. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1548/14).

Bermuda Convoy Force Your 0130/5 and my 1633/13. JERVIS BAY, COMORIN and one A.M.C. from Northern Patrol will constitute Bermuda Convoy Escort Force. Considered desirable that four vessels be employed. If you concur, request you will recall RAJPUTANA. Possible release her for West Coast of South America when a Canadian A.M.C. enters service. (D.O.D.(F) 2157/13) to C. in C. A.W.I.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Gunboats at Basra My 1121/12. Desirable to base gunboats at Basra. Asking if any political objection to this. (C. in C., E.I., 0731Z/14).

Enemy Submarine Report French report of 4 German Submarines having left Germany early March for Indian Ocean, and of a German tanker sighted off Canary Islands. (S.O.I., Colombo, 1224Z/14).

Norwegian Ships Additions to my 0425/13. (S.O.I., Bombay, 0718/14).

Australia

BRAMORA Norwegian tanker, should be despatched to Singapore for orders under armed guard if available. (D. of S.T. to Aust. N.B., 2307/14).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (continued)

Dispositions 1211/12. ANTENOR and 3 A.B.V.'S employed on patrol in Eastern Mediterranean working from Alexandria. My intention, in view of weakness of air defence of Malta, to withdraw cruisers and destroyers to Alexandria should situation deteriorate, "O" class submarines and minelaying submarines to Malta as they arrive from East. Remaining submarines and H.M.S. MEDWAY to Alexandria (C. in C., Med., 1055/14).

Automatic Submarine Control Your ref. sheet TY/15/11/5/40, report of Turkish submarines remaining submerged with machinery stopped by automatic control. Obtain all details which Turkish authorities are willing to disclose. (N.A., Ankara, 1613/14).

U-Boat. Swiss Report Admiralty 1920/13. Consider Swiss report (3 U-boats in Mediterranean) unreliable. (S.O.I., Gib., 2104/14).

Roumanian Oil Repeats N.A. Bucharest 1807/13, re difficulties of supply. (D.N.I., to C. in C., Med., 1751/14).

China

Chingwungtag Coal trade Pending further instructions Admiralty 0114/13 is being strictly adhered to. In view possible repercussions at Shanghai question maintaining this coal trade requires urgent consideration (C. in C., China, 0241/14).

LIVERPOOL Sailed from Hong Kong for Aden at 1030/14. (C. in C., China, 0215Z/15).

Danish Ships, Manila. Consul-General, Manila, reports Danish ships will remain in port until instructions from Danish National Committee now being formed by Danish Ambassador to U.S.A., (C. in C., China, 0344Z/14).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (continued)

Danish Ships — A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1359/13. Proposal to obtain positive undertaking from Danish masters considered undesirable. (D.T.D., 1904/14).

Norwegian Tankers — Fully concur with R.A.S.A.D's 1401Z/13. Request early decision for guidance of South Atlantic Force. (C. in C. S.A., 1230/14).

Mediterranean

ARK ROYAL — Your 2213/13 (Re proposal to place ARK ROYAL temporarily under Command of Senior Officer, Force de Raid. Concur (C. in C. Med. 0901/14).

GLORIOUS (to join Home Fleet), ARK ROYAL, WESTCOTT, BULLDOG — My 2202/13. V.A.(A) transfer flag and sail in GLORIOUS to join Home Fleet as soon as possible. ARK ROYAL, WESTCOTT, BULLDOG to remain at Gibraltar for present (A.C.N.S.(A) 1118/14 to V.A.(A) GLORIOUS and escort left Gib. 2200 (S.O.I. Gib. 2232/14).

Admiralty propose that ARK ROYAL, who will remain at Gib., be placed under S.O., Force de Raid, with BULLDOG & WESTCOTT. Would appreciate suitable berthing facilities at Oran and French destroyers to be available if necessary to assist during flying training from that base. (D.O.D.(F) 1420/14 to B.N.L.O Marclan).

Your 1350/14, proposal to sail in ARK ROYAL instead of GLORIOUS as in 1118/14. Decision in 1118/14 was based on full consideration of all facts and must be adhered to. (D.O.D.(F) 1834/14).

GLORIOUS, escort STUART, VELOX and WATCHMAN left Gib. 2200 (S.O.I., Gib., 2232/14). Route (C. in C., W.A., 1046/15, 1045/15).

War Diary

14.4.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

A.M.C.'s Allocation.

Following re-allocation of A.M.C.'s has been approved and is now taking place:-

Ship	From	To
VOLTAIRE	Mediterranean	Halifax
RANPURA	Sierra Leone	"
ESPERANCE BAY	" "	"
JERVIS BAY	" "	Bermuda
COMORIN	South Atlantic	"
RAJPUTANA	W. coast of S. America	"
CHESHIRE	Sierra Leone	Northern Patrol

One vessel will shortly be transferred from Northern Patrol to Bermuda, name to be announced. (O.D. 1139/40, serial No. 460).

North Atlantic

French Forces

Convoys and Patrols, positions 1300/14. (D.C., 0143/14) (D.C. 1831/14).

Danish Shipping

Regret unable to approve your 1208/13. Endeavour to persuade ship either to sail voluntarily for nearest British or French port or to put to sea and be taken Gibraltar by one of H.M. ships. (Hd. of M. 1634/14 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

South Atlantic

Pocket Battleships

Your 1201/13, are pocket battleships in German homewaters? Reply, Yes. (D.O.D.(F) 1432/14 to C. in C. S.A.).

STROMBUS

Admiralty 2209/28. STROMBUS detained at Leith Harbour, South Georgia bound for Great Britain, ready for sea 15/4. (C. in C. S.A. 1039/14).

ESPERANCE BAY)
JERVIS BAY)
COMORIN)

Admiralty 1732/13. ESPERANCE BAY sails from Freetown 17/4, to arrive Halifax 29/4. Admiralty 2155/13. JERVIS BAY and COMORIN sail from Dakar 20/4 or 21/4 to arrive Bermuda 30/4 or 1/5. (C. in C., S.A. EX 0950/14).

14.4.1940
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

MILAN. French destroyer, in collisio n with unknown vessel. Oil tank leaking to sea. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1140/14). Temporary repairs about 3 days, ship then fit for any service. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 1559/14).

War Diary. 14.4.40.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

THISTLE — S/m, operating in Skagerrak, has not reported for two days. Has been ordered to Rosyth. (D.C.N.S. 223). At 2130/9 she reported having attacked enemy.s/m. Probable she is lost (V.A.(S) 1044/14).

CACHALOT. — To be taken in hand Swan Hunter, Tyne. (D.O.D.(H) 0738/14). In collision with S.S. BEPPE 13/4 (S.61623/14, CACHALOT 2200/13).

ESKIMO. — BEDOUIN towing expects to arrive Skjel Fjiod 0300/15 if weather holds (BEDOUIN 1422/14).

SS.TOLTEN. — Engines disabled 120° Contes Lt. Ho. 20 miles (French Admty. 2045/14).

PENELOPE. — In Skelfiord, unable to keep water in flooded compartments under control and will be beached when weather moderates, to enable a Norwegian salvage tug to attempt temporary repairs.

COSSACK. — Proceeding to Skelfiord to make good damage.

M/D BURLINGTON. — Defective propeller, 228 Cape Wrath 24 1000/14. Tug BANDIT sailed to assist. (A.C.O.S.1629/14)

War Diary

14.4.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

Dutch Fleet — Reported left Flushing 1800/13 eastwood (10-15 vessels including minelayers).

Flushing — is closed to all traffic. (V.A. Dover, 1841/14).

WEATHER

	Wind	Visibility
North Sea.	N.W. moderate.	Good.
Western Approaches	W.N.W. moderate.	Good.
Channel	S.S.W. moderate.	Moderate.

Outlook, similar.

War Diary

14.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

Situation, positions (D.C., 1831/14).

OG 130G	Position (N.C.S.O., Mersey, 1211/14).
HGF 26	Orders to escort (C. in C., W.A., 1052/14).
HX 35	Sailing telegram (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1236/14).
HG 27	R.V. (F.O.C.N.A. 0948/14).
OA 129	Number and speed (N.C.S.O., Thames, 1124/14).
SL 28	Destinations. (D.T.D. 1741/14).
HG 25A	VIVACIOUS to escort (A.C.W.A., 1301/14).
HG 27	Details (F.O.C.N.A. 1223/14).
HG 26	Sailing telegram (D.T.D., Lo48/14).

Danish Exports — My 1651/13. Para D. Enemy exports include goods of Danish origin except goods covered by certificates of origin issued in Denmark on board vessels which sailed from any neutral port before 9/4. (V.A.N.P., 2349/14).

ANNAM — Danish, arrested by Netherlands Trading Co. for claim against East Asiatic Co. (D.T.D., 0116/14).

Home Commands

Operations

Admiralty 1532. V.O.C.S. without A.A. guns thus practically defenceless. 3000 men equipped. Allied forces could land Budvangen, seaplanes and A.A. guns vital necessity. Nordfjord reported free (Aalesund Rec. 2310/14).

Air.

Air reconnaissance

Off Norwegian coast 14/4. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1140/14).

Mining

German mining — German minelaying due East from Aalborg night 11/12 April. (N.A. Copenhagen at the Hague Rec. 1025/14).

British Minefields — Admiralty notice of mines laid in Baltic Sea and approaches. (Details). Whole of the waters of the Baltic and approaches south of lines specified dangerous owing to mines, but no mines will be laid in Swedish territorial waters. (Hydrog., 0436/14).

Miscellaneous

ARETHUSA Class — Catapults to be removed and 4-barrelled Mark M pom-pom fitted. (T.S.D., 276/40) (Branch Acquaint 459).

Petrol Ignition from s/ms — Request for trials with a submarine for blowing petrol from external tanks for ignition on the surface (HD. OF M. , to C. in C., Portsmouth, 1255/14).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Destroyer — 1 destroyer, 1 large ship possibly cruiser Enemy position JSG(?)D 4419, 040°. Numerous ~~aircraft~~ A/S patrol in area C. 12 and 13. (TRIAD 2205/14).

12 Transports — Official source reports at 1400/14, 12 German Transports, of which 3 are 10000 tons proceeding North along coast of Norway grouped in two's and three's (Mr. Mallet, Stockholm, N.O. 41, 1650/14).

M.T.B.'s — are based Kristiansand (R.A.(S) 1046/14).

Merchant Ship — Possible hit by SNAPPER 1407/14 MBGD 5957 (SNAPPER 2100/14).

Destroyers — My 1624/13. Ships previously reported as cruisers were destroyed, SEVERN reported 1930/13 these have now sailed Eastward. (R.A.(S) 0730/14).

Norwegian Forces

Salvage Ships — Ask Norwegians to send salvage ships to Vest Fjord from Tromso and Bodo (67:17 N. 14:23 E.) (C. in C. H.F. 1214/14 to R.O.C.I.C.S.).

Your 1214 none at Tromso or Bodo one may be at Bronnoysund and will be sent (F.O.C.I.CS 1852/14 to C. in C. H.F.)

Sognefjord — reported held by Norwegian Naval forces. Norwegian Admiralty request British Naval forces contact and send adequate support to hold this vital position. (Aalesund, 1532/14).

14.4.1940
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy Reports.

S.s. SKAGERRAK.	Tanker, scuttled 14/4 after interception by SUFFOLK N.W. of Aalesund (see also 15/4). Your 2310/4. No. SKAGERRAK was not sighted and owing to misinterpretation of Admty. 1038/14 search was not made. (YORK, 0624/15 to C.in C.H.F.)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Enemy reports Unconfirmed rumour now 2 days old that a German vessel has been sunk off Skaw, survivors taken to Friedrikshaven (N.A. Copenhagen at the Hague Rec. 1045/14).

Ships off Helder N.A. Hague, 0110/14).

Landing at Tromso Is. German troops said to be landed in Telegraph Bay. Tromso Is. 69:39 N., 18:59 E. (PENELOPE 0230/14).

Your 1021/13. GLASGOW's aircraft could not locate ships referred to and they are still undiscovered by further searches. Every endeavour is being made to destroy warships, troopships, and storeships (1st S.L. 0230/14 to C. in C. H.F.).

2 trawlers May be near Roervik (64:51 N. 11:14 E.) (D.D.I.C. 0238/14). My 0230. It is not confirmed that there are German troops in Tromso (PENELOPE 1035/14).

SKAGERAK scuttled German tanker reported English cruiser 64:3 N. 2:0 E. 0927 /14. SKAGERAK has been ordered to scuttle ship (D.D.I.C. 1038/14) Intercepted by SUFFOLK 64:36 N., 2:28 E. bound Murmansk from Wilhelmshaven. Scuttled herself to avoid capture. Have crew 43 on board. Am proceeding to Skornvoer Lt. (SUFFOLK 1230/14)

Malmo 5 destroyers No large warships here. (B.C. Malmo, 1250/14). Aircraft reports 5 vessels believed destroyers in line abreast JSND 5010 at 0330 course 1800 (C. in C. Rosyth 1546/14, 1322/14, 1408/14, HQ. Bomber Command, 1300/14).

Enemy reports Norwegian GOC states no German troops within 100 km. of Tromso. Planes mentioned in PENELOPE 1035 were destroyed this am by Norwegian aircraft. (F.O.I.C.S. 1744/14).

Thangesund reported taken 0715/10 by 200 Germans from Stavanger by boat supported by 10 bombers. Four Germans to be Haisteinen Lt. S. of Bergen 11/4. Norwegians since tried to destroy. Result unknown (Aalesund W/T 1746/11)

War Diary

14. 4. 40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Faroes

SUFFOLK — Reduce to 16 knots, fuel economy (C. in C. H.F. 0856/14).

War Diary

14. 4. 40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Kirkenes

3 battalions of Norwegian Army at Kirkenes. Only way to transport them to reinforce the single battalion now in Narvik area is by H.M. ships (D.O.D.(H) 0054/14 to C. in C. H.F. F.O.C.B.C.S.).

DEVONSHIRE, BERWICK and 1 destroyer proceed to capture ship in F.O.C.I.B.S. 0920/14 (ship containing explosives etc. held by authorities at Kirkenes) and transport troops in Adty. 0054/14 (C. in C. H.F. 1716/14 to F.O.C.I.C.S.)

War Diary

14.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Kattegat & Skagerrak

Submarine patrol zones (R.A.S. 1431/14, 1501/14) (D.O.D.(H) 1448/14).

Moon renders Kattegat no longer tenable. Only target AUGUST LEDN HARDT sunk off Great Belt 11/4. Shipping disappeared and Swedish lights extinguished 12/4 (SEALION 0215/14).

War Diary

14.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Christiansand South

Depot ship, probably TSINGTAO and at least 4 M.T.Bs. identified by photos at Kristiansand 12/4(D.D.I.C. 1050/14).

War Diary

14.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Stavanger

Air Attacks

Role of Blenheim Sqn. to be stationed at Kinloss or Lossie mouth in operations against Stavanger aerodrom and seaplane anchorage. First attacks to take place as soon as possible. Aerodrome objective is first priority (Air Min. 1320/14, 1750/14.

SEAL to ascertain if Langer, W/T office and meteorological office can be bombarded by surface force (V.A.(S) 0314/14, 0732/14.

SEAL to act as navigation mark and asdic beacon for bombarding ship dawn 16/4 (R.A.(S) 1842/14 to SEAL).

War Diary

14.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Bergen

Air attacks

Air attack by 800 sqn. 6 aircraft attacked transport alongside Skottegrund mole at 0712. Complete surprise. One hit on jetty. Near misses (Hatston, 1009/14).

My 1009/14. 9 aircraft of 803 sqn. attempted to attack 0820. ship seen badly on fire, fire broke out on jetty. One large flying boat machine gunned and set on fire . One of our aircraft shot down (Hatston, 1208/14)

Air reinforcements

Bergen being reinforced by air. Railway cut. A.I. (D.D.I.C. 1351/14).

Air attack

on S.S. AFRICA and any flying boats seen, by 8 Skuas 15/4 (A.C.O.S. 2001/14).

Ship in shore of ship attacked alongside Skoltegrund mole may have been sunk by near miss. Hope mole now partly blocked by wrecks. S.S. AFRICA and 7 smaller ships in bay (Hatston 1528/14).

14.4.1940,
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Aalesund.

S/m. Have lost touch with enemy s/m, last seen in XKND 3525. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ (A/C, 220 Sqdn., 1505/14).

Sognefiord. Sognefiord reported held by Norwegian Naval Forces. Norwegian Admty. requests British Naval Forces establish contact and send support to hold this vital position. (Aalesund, 1532/14 to N.I.D.)

War Diary.

14.4.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aalesund

Operation PRIMROSE.

Details of Portsmouth contingents (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1117/14). My 1117/14.
Officers in charge R.N. and R.M. detachments from NELSON, Lieutenant Commander E.H. Filden, Captain J.H. McCapon, R.M. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1223/14).

PRIMROSE party under Major Lumley R.M., 95 O.2's. (C. in C., W.A., 0131/14.)

Your 1810/12 (?) Additional seamen organised in two platoons and reduced Headquarters are now ready for landing. (BARHAM 1151/13 to Admiralty).

PRIMROSE Communications (D.S.D.1250/14 to C. in C., Rosyth.)

Forces taking part. BLACKSWAN, BITTERN, AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO with 780 R.N. and R.M. landing force. (2) object to seize Aalesund 62°29 'N, 6°10 'E. Time of first landing dawn 16/4 or as soon after as S.N.O. considers prudent. Operation is to synchronise with MAURICE. Norwegians have not been named. Steps being taken to neutralise enemy air activity during landing. Believed no other enemy forces near (D.O.D.(H) 1347/14 to C. in C., Rosyth.)

H.M.S. AUCKLAND sails 1800/14 with 200 men for PRIMROSE. Orders. (C. in C. Rosyth. 1714/14 to Admiralty.)

Only AUCKLAND sailed in time for landing at dawn. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2311/14 to Admiralty)

Full N.W. gale N. or Rattray Head reduced speed of advance to 7 knots. as arrival at destination a.m./16 now impossible have turned back and am patrolling between Buchan Ness and Aberdeen (AUCKLAND 0602/15.)

War Diary. 14.4.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Trondheim.

Position for Landing.

Intention has been to land force for operations in Trondheim area at Namsos. For many reasons, advantageous to land inside Trondheim Fiord. Do you consider shore batteries could be destroyed or dominated to permit transports to enter? If so, how many ships and of what type would you propose? (1st S.L. to C. in C. H.F. 0142/14)

Admiralty 0142/14. Please ascertain from Norwegian authorities details of guns, and if it is known whether enemy had any howitzers or field guns with them. (C. in C., H.F. 0337/14.)

Parachute Troops.

Enemy parachute troops landed at Ombasand, probably Ulsberg near Trondheim (GLASGOW's A/C 1600/14)

German Reinforcements.

Germans reported reinforcing Trondheim by air. (Stockholm Rec.1515/14.)

Norwegian G.S. estimate not more than 1,000 Germans at Trondheim, W.O. consider this underestimate. Norwegian forces Trondheim area. Three to five infantry battalions, two to three field batteries. (D of P. 1434/14 to SOUTHAMPTON, CODRINGTON.

Following from aircraft on landing, Norwegian Naval Unit from Trondheim reports twenty to thirty German aircraft at Trondheim fiord 63.32.N.,09.30.E. Norwegian troops holding their own in neighbourhood. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2314/14) (D.C.0330/15 to C. in C., H.F.)

War Diary.

14.4.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

My 2140. Ordered to rendezvous my force 65°0' N.900 'E as soon as possible after daylight 15/4, am to meet 4th D.F. tonight under way in Fiord as cruisers cannot anchor. Will leave Daptain D.6 at Namsos as W/T link and make arrangements for W.X. Inadvisable to rely on navigation lights. Remaining destroyers will be in readiness to land troops if required. Enemy reconnaissance action but no bombing. (GLASGOW 2232/14 to Admiralty.)

A. Admiralty 1627/13 para. J. Captain D. to remain at Namsos.
B. Admiralty 1818/14 para A. Arrival of convoy should be timed as late in day as consistent with safe navigation and every effort made to disembark troops during dark hours.
C. Re General Carton de Wiart.
D. Namsos to be blacked out night 15/16 April. (D.C.N.S.2333/14 to GLASGOW, C.S.18)
Landing at Namsos will be slow operation. Absolutely essential very strong air protection be provided or intensive air attack on enemy aerodrome at Trondheim. As soon as enemy realise operation has commenced Namsos will be entirely at mercy of enemy bombers (Captain (D)6 0020/14 to Admiralty.)

CURACOA.

Admiralty 2320/13. Sail CURACOA into your force in convoy TP One. (C. in C. Rosyth 1250/14 to C.S.2.)

CURLEW.

Proceed Namsos (D.O.D.(H) 1651/14)

War Diary.

14.4.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Namsos

Operations
HENRY and MAURICE.

Your 2012/13. Prolonged operations of destroyers in Aalesund area have made morning landing today, Sunday impossible. On account of urgency intend to carry out HENRY p.m./14 accepting (?) additional risk air interference. (GLASGOW 0105/14 to Admiralty)

Enemy
Air Threat.

Am shadowed. Landing cannot take place before 1700. In view of possible heavy air attack during landing can delay until a.m./15 be accepted (GLASGOW 1020/14 to Admiralty)

Your 1020/14. You should arrive Namsos about one hour before dark 14/4 (D.C., 1146/14 to GLASGOW). CURLEW is to proceed forthwith towards Namsos with all convenient despatch. Orders follow. (D.O.D.(H) 1651/14 to F.O., C.O.S., CURLEW). No enemy in or near Namsos A.I.(D.C.,1903/14 to GLASGOW).

Force W.X.

A Brigade in CHOBRY and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA is to be diverted so as to arrive Namsos dusk 15/4, B. MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM and CAIRO and destroyers as detailed by C.S.18, are to escort this detachment to Namsos. This force, together with CURLEW will comprise Force W.X. C. CURLEW is to rendezvous with Force W.X. as ordered by C.S.18. D. VALIANT is to continue with remainder of NP One to Narvik. E. Transfer of General Mackesey.
F. Orders for landing will follow. (D.O.D.(H) 1818/14 to C.S.18., F.O.,C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, CURLEW).
Reply. A. yes. E. Unable to transfer. (R.A. 18.C.S. 2119/14).
No enemy in or near Namsos. Am stopping all outward telephone, telegrams, road communications. Trying get pilots, Fleming (A.C.O.S. 1650/14 intercept from A/C 2048 Sqr.)

HENRY and MAURICE.

Operation X.D. Two seamen platoons to be embarked with Party A.(D.O.D.(H) 2031/14 to C. in C., Nore)

War Diary.

14.4.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Namsos

Operations
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14.4.1940,
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Namsos.

Situation. A. Intention up to present has been to land the force for operations in Trondheim area at Namsos.

B. For many reasons it would be advantageous to land force inside Trondheim Fiord.

C. Could ships destroy or dominate shore batteries so as to permit transports to enter? If so, what ships would you propose to use?

(1st S.L., 0142/14 to C.in C.H.F.)

War Diary. 14.4.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

FURIOUS and 1st Cruiser Squadron would be required for the operation. Please consider this important project further. (1st S.L. 0121/15 to C. in C., H.F.)

Considerable number German troops in Harjangs Fiord, Royal and Grand Hotels, Narvik, are mined. (IVANHOE 1925/14)

My 1227/14. Norwegian C. in C. has an unconfirmed report that Germans are reported to have reinforced Agdenes by mounting guns there. (D.N.I., 1940/14).

Reported by aircraft Narvik captured by British Naval Forces a.m. 14/4. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2314/14).

Safety of Convoy.

F.O.C.,B.C.S.,1828/14. We are sure you recognise that safety of convoy and troops until latter is landed is yours. (C.N.S. 2319/14 to F.O., Narvik)

My 1730/14. In view of Admiralty 1818/14 only two battalions will now be at Faagsfiord and half of one of these battalions is expected at Sanlagen. Troops arriving in BATORY, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, R. DEL FACIFICO, will be landed at Harstad to reorganise and enable ships to clear for other services. (General Mackesey 2343/14 to F.O. AURORA).

My 2319. General has landed at Sag Fiord. We do not know whether by arrangement with you or not. We think it imperative you and the General should be together and no attack made except in concert. What is exact position? (1st S.L. 2347/14 to F.O., Narvik)

Submarines.

Consider Germany are concentrating on getting submarines back into Ofot Fiord. Continuous anti-submarine patrol should be maintained in this area before landing involving use of large ships. (V.A.C., B.C.S.,2229/14 to C. in C., H.F.)

War Diary. 14.4.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norwegian Contact.

Your 1022 has been passed to General Mackesey who is ashore at Salagen 68°55'N 17°45 'E with troops landed from SOUTHAMPTON. He is in touch with Norwegian divisions (SOUTHAMPTON 1558/14). Earliest information required whether landing successful to-night and whether navigation lights are burning (D.O.D.(H) 1605/14 to GLASGOW). Aircraft today sighted neither warships nor troops, nor are any near Tromso. (Further information. (C. in C., H.F. 1701/14.)

Enemy Shore Posts.

Your 1119. Narvik harbour now held by shore Lewis gun posts. German flying boats in harbour cut adrift. Have five dead, six seriously wounded. (KIMBERLEY 1723/14 to F.O.C.,B.C.S.)

Your 1410. WARSPITE is in West fiord operating Force B. Lord Cork requests support of my force should it be decided to carry out operations against Narvik 15/4. WARSPITE could land Marine detachment. If WARSPITE takes part transfer of flag not possible. If WARSPITE does not take part suggest transfer flag in West fiord after dart 15/4 (F.O.C.,B.C.S., 1828/14.)

Convoy is to arrive at entrance to Vaagsfiord 0900/15 (F.O. Narvik 1940/14)

Enemy Stores.

Is anybody in Narvik harbour now preventing enemy merchant vessels discharging cargo which may be stores and ammunition or have all enemy merchant vessels been sunk? (C. in C., H.F., 2332/14)

Further Study Needed.

We still think the operation described in Admiralty 0142/14 should be further studied. Could not take place for seven days, re air danger. In addition to Royal Air Force bombing Stavanger aerodrome SUFFOLK should bombard with high explosives at dawn hoping to put Stavanger aerodrome out of business. Aerodrome at Trondhiem which is close to harbour, could be dealt with by Fleet Air Arm bombers and subsequent bombardment.

War Diary.

14.4.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik

Estimate of enemy strength in Narvik area required as soon as possible. Other most important operations in other areas depend on this information (D.O.D.(H) 0913/14 to C. in C. H.F.)

AURORA, SOUTHAMPTON to arrive Skjelfiord by 2000/14. F.O.C.,B.C.S., to have information ready re Narvik situation, particularly possibility of having troops at quay. General and Staff to be transferred from SOUTHAMPTON to AURORA for night. (F.O., H.M.S. AURORA 1022/14)

Direct Assault Feasible.

Reply to 0913/14. Convinced Narvik can be taken by direct assault without fear of meeting serious opposition. Main landing force need only be small, but must have support of Force B. or similar. Ships and destroyers with good A/A armament required. (F.O.C.,B.C.S.,1027/14).

Enemy merchant ships at Narvik are not to be allowed to discharge cargo and should be sunk if necessary (F.O.C.,I.B.S., 1119/14.)

Difficulties.

Your 0142/14. Main difficulties. (1) to protect troopships from heavy air attack for over 30 miles in narrow waters and (II) then to carry out an apposed landing of which ample warning has been given, under continuous air attack. I do not consider operation passible unless you are prepared to face very heavy losses in troops and transports. (C. in C., H.F., 1157/14 to Admiralty.).

Land Now.

In view of successful naval action at Narvik 13/4 suggest we take every advantage before frightened enemy recovers. I should willingly land the military force now in SOUTHAMPTON at Narvik at daylight 15/4 from AURORA and destroyers. Cruisers and destroyers supporting by fire and I could assist with Naval and Marine landing party of 200 (F.O. Narvik 1327/14 to SOUTHAMPTON)

14.4.1940,
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik.

S/m. Locally reported off Engenes 149 G O M O 5, 0400/14. (SOUTHAMPTON, 0850/14)

War Diary. 14.4.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

JUPITER.

Unfit for prolonged service on account of contamination of feeding water. To sail for Scapa on completion of service mentioned in my 1646/14 (R.A.(D) H.F.1802/14). JUPITER proceed with despatch from /14 for Skjel Fiord with certain apparatus for repair work on destroyers (R.A.(D) H.F. 1646/14.)

CARLISLE.

My 2320/13, para. 5., CARLISLE will now be required for forthcoming convoys (D.O.D.(H) 2050/14.)

Narvik

Operations

Salvage Vessels.

BRIGAND required for salvage duties at Narvik. Salvage vessel FORDE ordered from Harwich to Scapa. A.C.O.S., to arrange onward passage of FORDE to Narvik. (C.C.R.T. to A.C.O.S. 0019/14) BRIGAND sailed 0210 (N.O.in C. Lerwick. 0232/14.)

Situation.

Repeat all signals regarding situation at Narvik to AURORA and SOUTHAMPTON. (1st S.L. to F.O.C.,B.C.S., 0231/14.)

PUNJABI.

To sail U.K. to make good defects.(F.O.C., B.C.S.,0945/14)

Aircraft Reconnaissance.

One Aircraft making detailed reconnaissance. (KIMBERLEY 1121/14.)

My 2257/13. There is good reason to suppose enemy at Narvik were, before the action yesterday and still are without communication to outer world owing to difficulty of W/T communication (F.O.C.,B.C.S.,1035/14)

War Diary.

14.4.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

REPULSE

Remain at Scapa (C. in C., H.F. 1251/14 to REPULSE)

A/A Ships.

CARLISLE. Movements to be ordered by Admiralty (D.O.D.(H) 2050/14 Flag of R.A. A/A.S. to be hoisted in her. (C. in C. Rosyth 1533/14. R.A. A/A.S., 1208/14.) Sailed for Rosyth. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0107/14)
CURACOA. Sailed for Rosyth (F.O. Humber. 0056/14)

Destroyers.

Transfers from Western Approaches to Dover. (C. in C., W.A., 1314/14.) All available to sail for Dover, and must be accepted. One destroyer only will escort each convoy. Destroyers at Dover to keep steam at immediate notice. (D.D.O.D.(H) 0222/14, 0332/14, 0221/14.) Four submarines leaving 15/4 for Harwich. (Admiral Ouest.0826/14.)

French Forces.

Admiral Cadart in EL DJEZAIR and six others arrived (F.O.in C. Greenock.0955/14.)
Admiral Darrian in EMILE BERTIN with four destroyers arrived (F.O.in C. Greenock.1710/14)

ESK, IVANHOE, ICARUS, PUNJABI, HAVOCK, HOSTILE, HERO to rendezvous with C. in C., H.F., 15/4. Fuel necessary to reach Scapa, no more. Their present duties to be taken over by FAULKNOR, FOXHOUND, FORESTER, BEDOUIN, ZULU, KIMBERLEY, ESCAPADE, ELECTRA who will remain in Narvik area for present (C. in C., H.F., 1729/14.)

North Goodwin Patrol.

Being taken over from French 1100/15. (V.A., Dover, 1901/14)

Destroyer Sweep of Norwegian Coast.

By TARTAR, GROM, BLYSKAWICA. To destroy or capture any shipping met near Norwegian coast. Description of operation. (R.A.D.,H.F./1215/14 R.A.(S) 1211/14). Return to Scapa in view of weather. (D.O.D.(H) 2016/14) operation cancelled (R.A.(S) 2209/14)

War Diary. 14.4.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Dispositions.

(a) Tromso Area. F.O.C., 1st C.S. in charge, DEVONSHIRE and BERWICK to be relieved later by SUFFOLK and YORK, FURIOUS, CALCUTTA, INGLEFIELD, ISIS, ILEX, IMOGEN, oiler WAR PINDARI, Anchorage Tromso, Tanks (1) Transport Norwegian troops from Kirkenes to Narvik area Admiralty 0054/14. (2) Cover FURIOUS providing airforce for RUPERT.

(b) Narvik Area. (1) WARSPITE, SOUTHAMPTON, AURORA, under orders of F.O., Narvik, until troops have landed, then return Scapa. (2) PENELOPE, COSSACK, ESKIMO, and HOTSPUR to get themselves fit for passage to Scapa with help of Norwegian Salvage Companies. (3) Destroyers for general and A/S duties and to screen and work with WARSPITE, FAULKNOR, FOXHOUND, FORESTER, BEDOUIN, ZULU, KIMBERLEY, ESCAPADE, ELECTRA, ENCOUNTER, GRENADE. (4) MANCHESTER (C.S.18) and BIRMINGHAM to return to Scapa on arrival of Convoy N.P.1. at final destination.

(c) RODNEY, RENOWN AND VALIANT will proceed Scapa, screened by ESK, IVANHOE, ICARUS, PUNJABI, HAVOCK, HOSTILE, HERO, GREYHOUND, GRIFFIN, BRAZEN, FEARLESS.

(d) Namsos Area. GLASGOW, SHEFFIELD and six of 4th D.F. and 6th D.F. to carry out operation "Henry". GALATEA (C.S.2) and ARETHUSA to carry out "Maurice". (C.in C., H.F.,1610/14.)

Home Fleet.

Will you be ready to transfer to RENOWN 15/4, if so where? WARSPITE to remain Narvik area until army established ashore, remainder heavy ships returning to Scapa (C.in C., H.F., 1410/14 to F.O.C., B.C.S.)

FURIOUS.

Am detaching FURIOUS to proceed Tromso, send two destroyers to rendezvous with her, she will have no escort. (C.in C. H.F. 1613/14 to F.O.C., I.C.S.)

Submarines.

ORZEL proceed to JSAQ 0120 (V.A.(S)0119/14)
British submarines are operating as follows (D.O.D.(4)1448/14).
TETRARCH orders (R.A.(S) 1534/14)
Positions 0600/15 (D.C.2235/14, V.A.S.1641/14)

War Diary.

14.4.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy

Norwegian M.A. proposes reinforcement in material if not men could be landed in Namsos and? Uli Hammar both of which offer landing facilities (M.A. Helsingfors No.TOO. received 0400/15.)

Stavanger.

Bombardment of Stavanger aerodrome is under consideration. Send SUFFOLK to Scapa to refuel and have four destroyers fitted with T.S.D.S. ready to work with her (D.O.D.(4) 1935/14 to C.inC. H.F.)

Bombardment of Stavanger planned for dawn 17/4. SUFFOLK (with 2 a/c's) and destroyer escort are to be ready to leave Scapa by 1500/16 (D.O.D.(H)0106/15 to C.in C. H.F.)

Norwegian Appeals.

From Norwegian C.in C.

31. British action in some form is necessary both to make further resistance possible and Norwegian people and Army understand England really means business.

32. Critical point in East port of Norway north of Oslo where Norwegian Army is trying to rally, pressed by German forces. We cannot hold out many days without help which must be given by bombing Fornebo.

33. Trondheim must be taken at a time when I am able to help you but I shall not be able to do so unless you attack at once. (No.TOO 14/4.)

Force de Raid.

Not now considered this reinforcement in North will be necessary. Agree that show of force at Gibraltar may have satisfactory effect and proposed transfer of Force de Raid appears desirable. (A.C.N.S.(A) D.O.D. (F) 1420/14)

German Plan.

Naval Staff here informed original German plan was attack Denmark, Norway and Sweden, 15/5 being earliest date practicable for latter. Fear that further inaction would be dangerous to national morale led to change of plan. (Sir N. Bland (Hague) No.90 DIPP. 14/4)

Minelaying.

See Mining.

War Diary. 14.4.1940,
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

General Narrative.

Landing Operations.

VALENTINE. Landing at Faroes. Completed. (VALENTINE, 2230/13).

HENRY. Consists of landing parties from 18th C.S. at Namsos and is timed to take place about 1500/14. It is purely Naval and is the advance party to enable MAURICE to land in evening 15/4. (see below)

MAURICE. Is an Army force of 2 battalions in H.M.T. ORION, escorted by ARETHUSA and GALATEA, probably carrying troops, sails 14/4 from Tyne to Namsos.

RUPERT. Is a military expedition to Narvik, Vaagsfiord or Tromso, depending on SOUTHAMPTON's reconnaissance. Probably part of RUPERT will be diverted and attached to MAURICE. Ships most concerned in RUPERT are SOUTHAMPTON, AURORA, EFFINGHAM, ENTERPRISE.

PRIMROSE. Is a Naval landing party and expedition to Aalesund.

HENRY. Units concerned, C.S.18, D.6, GLASGOW, SOUTHAMPTON, W.X.CONVOY, AURORA, MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, CURLEW, ARETHUSA.

Policy

Norwegian Appeals.

Officers quote Poland, fear you will be too late, morale low.

Request you will bomb Fornebo and attack Trondheim. Fear I cannot hold out much longer.

We can effectively block railways to Bergen and Trondheim. Germans reported to have mounted guns at Agdenes, unconfirmed.
(Norwegian C-in-C. No.T00.14/4.)

War Diary. 15.4.40.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/M's reported.

Estimated Dispositions.

U-boats are still disposed along the west coast of Norway extending far to the north and between the Shetlands and Norway. Presumably, too, there are still patrols near the Orkneys and Faroes, but recent reports are lacking. One off the Firth of Forth or Firth of Tay. (I.C., 0421/40) (D.D.I.C. 1230/15)

1548 Reported by BEDOUIN, in West Fiord 68° 00' N. 13° 26' E.

1558 D.F. unknown unit, probably U-boat, 59° N. 0°. Unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1641/15)

2000 By Norwegian observers, Fugle Fiord, by Narvik 68° 10' N. 16° 24' E. (I.C.0423/40)

S/M's attacked.

1054 By FEARLESSin Vaags Fiord 68° 53' N. 16° 59' E. (I.C.0423/40)

1548 BEDOUIN dropped 21 D.C's and for 24 hours maintain contact 68° N. 13° 26' E. (mouth of Vest Fiord) Position of contact moved during night and is now fixed in 68° 00' 15" N, 13° 25' 30" E. Slight traces of oil have been appearing since 1400/16. (PENELOPE, 2052/16)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

ALSTER — (Captured) now being rendered seaworthy by PENELOPE. Has cargo of miscellaneous military stores. Request she be sailed for U.K. as prize in returning convoy when no longer required. (C. in C. H.F. to F.O. Narvik 1000/15)

2 German vessels with cargo of Russian grain and 2 with general cargo sailed today to Germany (Vice Consul, Liepaja 1830/15)

North Atlantic.

GEDANIA — Reported sailed with one other 13/4. Please confirm and report name of second ship (D.D.I.C. to Consul, Las Palmas 1105/15)

South Atlantic.

WINDHUK — Final round of appeal today in Anglo-Mexican favour. Brazilians declare they will ensure ship does not sail before debt is paid. (A.N.A. Rio 1719/15)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

CORNFLOWER — Re conditions of sale (Hd. of M., 0410/15)

LIVERPOOL — Admty. 1828/12. LIVERPOOL sailed from Hong Kong for Aden 1030/14 (C. in C. China 02152/15)

America and West Indies.

Bermuda convoy. — Admty. 1156/13. Propose ASTURIAS be detailed to join Bermuda convoy (V.A.N.P. 1045/15) Your 1045. Expect vessel will not be required to sail before CHESHIRE joins your command. ASTURIAS provisionally earmarked for service in South Atlantic. Request you consider detailing a smaller vessel. (D.O.D.(F) 1950/15 to V.A.N.P.

CARADOC — If you do not desire to retain CARADOC on West Coast of Canada, suggested you should arrange for her future employment in consultations with C. in C., A. and W.I. (D.O.D.(F) to H.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0011/15)

Australia.

US2 — Sailed 0600Z/15 from Port Philip. Escort RAMILLIES, ADELAIDE, being joined by SYDNEY in 120° E, Y1,Y2,Y4,Y5, (Australian C'wealth N.B. 1252Z/15, 1041Z/15 .

Scandinavian Ships. — Admty. 2356/12. Present situation of Norwegian and Danish vessels (Aust. N.B. 0200/15)

East Indies.

Norwegian ships. — Message from British Minister Teheran. Foreign Office fears unless Norwegian ship leave neutral ports German Legation may succeed in placing embargo on them. If any such ships your district you should take action to encourage them to make for Allied port. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1015/Z15)

FOREIGN STATIONS

NorthAtlantic.

French Forces. Positions of convoys and patrols (D.C. 0918/15)

South Atlantic.

Norwegian Tankers. I feel that to deflect Norwegian tankers actually approaching R. Plate would cause dangerous resentment and possibly change their reasonable attitude entirely apart from causing shortage of fuel oil for warships here. Interruption of 2 weeks would denude stocks. I strongly approve suggestions of R.A.S.A.D. in his 14012 of 13/4 to Adty. (Sir E. Ovey (Buenos Aires) No. 85 15/4)

Nothing to indicate Norwegian ships being interfered with in this part of the world. (Sir E. Ovey (Buenos Aires, 2008/15).

CUMBERLAND **To proceed forthwith to Rio de Janeiro. Santos area and patrol to prevent escape of German ships.**

CORNWALL **To proceed to patrol square 1.33 (A) and 1.33 (D) to intercept Danish and Norwegian shipping** (C. in C. S.A. 1203/15)

Danish and Norwegian ships. Your 1725/12. Danish tankers will be subject prize proceedings and transferred British Registry. Pending reliable control Norwegian vessels, necessary either retain them in allied ports or allow them proceed to allied destinations under armed guard. Report names tankers detained in Union ports. Secretary for Defence should be informed efforts will be made to avoid dislocation Union oil supplies, but some delay to shipments by Norwegian and Danish tankers must be anticipated. (D.T.D. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1942/15).

Distribution. Orders to ALCANTARA, CORNWALL, HAWKINS, DORSETSHIRE. (C. in C. S.A. 1251/15)

NEPTUNE Will be sailed from Freetown for U.K. p.m. 20/4. (C. in C. S.A. 1253/15)

Mediterranean

VITTORIO VENETO Rumour sailed for Corfu where action against Greeks was expected. (S.O.(I) Malta 1025/15) Considered to have no foundation. (D.N.I. 1820/15)

War Diary. 15.4.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Positions	**(D.C. 1341/15)**
S.L.F. convoys suspension.	**In view of suspension of SLF convoys cancel Admiralty 1102/7/11/39. One Commodore should be sent to Sierra. Leone every 8 days, but Commodores are available for all convoys up to SL 31 sailing 9th May. (D.T.D. 1850/15 to F.O.I.C. Mersey).**
SL 26	**Escorted by LEITH arrived. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1630/15)**
SL 29	**Ocean route (D.T.D. 1534/15 which also cancels 1050/5, paras B and D).**
SL 28	**Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1046/15)**
HX 35	**Position (D.T.D. 1754/15)**
OB. 131	**Route (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1701/15)**
HGF 25	**Successful (D.T.D. 1203/15)**
Danish and Norwegian ships.	**German Government attempting to get them into Spanish ports (F.O. No. 166 to Sir M. Peterson (Madrid) 15/4).**
Norwegian ships.	**Understood that 6 Norwegian ships now at Antwerp are willing to sail for U.K. ports. Endeavour to sail these as soon as possible for the Downs or St. Helens. (D.T.D. 1225/15)**

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

0715 One coastal U/B on surface escorted by small depot ship bombed by A/C in 60° 8' N., 5° 2' E. U/B was hit abaft conning tower by one 20 lb. bomb and did not subsequently submerge (D.D.I.C.1732/16).

2219 (See S/M's reported) CALCUTTA dropped 2 depth charges, unlikely to have damaged U-boat. (CALCUTTA 2240/16).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines attacked.

2219 — By CALCUTTA in Romsdals Fiord 62° 30' N. 7° 30' E. 2 d.c's. Unlikely to have been damaged (I.C.O. 23/40).

0716 — By a/c at entrance to Kors Fird. Small U-boat hit aft by 20 lb. bomb. Did not dive (I.C. 0423/40).

1745 — By a/c 59° 10' N. 4° 13' E. No hits (I.C. 0423/40)

1705 — By A/S trawler 51° 17' N. 4° 26' W. Doubtful U-boat (I.C.0423/40).

Submarines reported.

Estimated dispositions. No indications of any change. Many indefinite positions between Shetlands and Norway and up the west coast of Norway. (D.D.I.C.1140/16).

0333 — Sighted by GLASGOW off Namsos at a range of 4 miles (A.S.W.D. 225).

0715 — By A/C 16 m. W. by S. of Bergen.

1745 — By A/C 45 m. W. of Stavanger.

2219 — By CALCUTTA, 3 miles W. of Andalsnes (XKJV 3030)(CALCUTTA 2219/16, 2240/16).

Norwegian intelligence report U-boat dives by day and surfaces by night in Fugle Fiord 68° 10' N., 16° 24' 30" E. Last seen 2000/15. (F.O.C.IC.S.1829/16).

Submarines attacked.

1745 — By A/C in position LKOX 1013, no hits. (A/C 233 Sqdn., 1745/16)(D.C.,1829/16,Donibristle, 2225/16).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

North Atlantic.

Your 0816/14 and 1228/14. Las Palmas reports 1733/15, no German ships left there since WINNETOU on 9/4. (D.D.I.C. 1017/16).

South Atlantic.

RIO GRANDE — A.2 report, Captain personally loth to sail and will only do so if definitely ordered, considers chance of escape very small. Morale of crew bad except chief officers and Nazi party representatives. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2242/16).

MONTEVIDEO — No information as to where or whether embargo will be lifted. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2242/16).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Scandinavian ships.

Propose wireless restriction on Norwegian and Danish merchant ships proceeding in Australian waters (Aust. N.B., 1547/16).

Norwegian tanker OSTHAU, now FREEMANTLE, may be despatched Singapore for orders if armed guard can be arranged. (D.of S.T. to Aust.N.B., 2242/16).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Norwegian tankers. My 0201/16 and your 1050/15 (2 Norwegian tankers at Bahrein). If armed guard cannot be obtained from any source these ships should be detained. (C.in C.E.I 0451/16 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf).

Norwegian and Danish ships held at Bombay. (NO.I.C., Bombay, 1102Z/16).

KETTY BROVIG should be despatched Bahrein for orders if armed guard can be arranged. KATY if loaded should be urged proceed to Aden for orders (D.of S.T. 1826/16).

KATY is now a passage from Bahrein to Aden with armed guard. (C.in C.E.I. 1902Z/16).

SOLI should be despatched to Aden for orders if armed guard can be arranged (D.of S.T. 2241/16). ORA, reported detained Bombay should be despatched to Port Okha if armed guard can be arranged. (D. of S.T. 2303/16).

Ships sailing Aden and Suez (S.B.N.O.Suez Canal, 0927/16).

America and West Indies.

REVENGE — To escort HX 36, 18/4, subsequently returning Halifax . (F.O.I.C. 3BS 1021/16).

CURACAO and Arnba. — Your 1443/14. General arrangements approved. Steps being taken to examine question of infantry from Jamaica. Possible use of French submarines and troops from Mortinique is being taken up with Paris. (Hd. of M. 1811/16).

Sabotage. — Informed (B.O.) Nazi sabotage organisation working on scheme to introduce nitrate saltpetre into coal intended for British bunkers. (R.N.A.Santeago, 2023/16).

Norwegian ships, &c. — List and details (S.O.I.Kingston 1750/16).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

WILLIAM STRACHAN, Norwegian tanker, should proceed Mombasa to complete discharge if armed guard can be obtained (D.of S.T., to C.in C. S.A. 2244/16).

Mediterranean.

Danish & Norwegian ships. My 0114/13 does not supersede special instructions for Canal Area in my 1931/10. Order for AZA MAERSK (Hd. of M. 1055/16).

ARK ROYAL to return home. My 1109/16. Regretted that owing to necessity for fullest a/c cooperation in North Sea operations now in progress, ARK ROYAL must return to Home Fleet. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C., Med. 1148/16).

GYLFE Norwegian tanker, to be despatched Alexandria if armed guard can be provided.(D.of S.T., to N.O.I.C. Aden 1827/16).

China.

Norwegian ships. Admiralty 0114/13. In view of serious effect of stoppage of supplies of essential commodities, request very early permission to resume at C.in C's discretion sailings between Allied ports Norwegian ships.(C.in C., China, 0222Z/16).

LIVERPOOL Left Hong Kong for Singapore 14/4. (S.O.I. Singapore 1121Z/16)

Danish ships. Informed Danish shipping firm loath to order ships to proceed from neutral to allied ports owing to risk they may lose their ships by seizure in prize without any compensation. Appears more desirable they should be informed on lines of Sec. of State's telegram 147 to Governor, Hong Kong,(C.in C., China, 0427Z/16).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

German ships. Las Palmas reports 1733/15 no German ships have left Las Palmas since WINNETOU on 9/4. (D.D.I.C. 1017/16).

French Forces. Positions of Convoys and Patrol 1300/16. (D.C.0043/16).

ARK ROYAL — Request you will sail ARK ROYAL to join Home Fleet at best possible speed. BULLDOG and WESTCOTT to escort through submarine danger area and then proceed independently to Plymouth (D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.N.A.1109/16).

AFRICAN REEFER — Danish, master refused to sail for any Allied port until instructed by owners. Request authoritative orders, undesirable for ship to remain here. (N.C.S.O., Funchal 1750/16).

South Atlantic.

NEPTUNE — Admiralty 1838/15. Proceed forthwith to Freetown without waiting for relief by SHROPSHIRE (C.in C.S.A. 0710/16).

Whale catchers. Asking for details of Norwegian and Panamanian whale catchers at Walvis Bay and Durban. (D.T.D.1128/16).

HERMES — Admiralty 1838/15. As training of pilots in HERMES is not yet complete, consider presence of attendant destroyer very necessary for safety. (C.in C., S.A.0722/16).

Norwegian ships. In view of Norway being an ally, would clarify position and avoid offending loyal Norwegian masters and nations wishing to return U.K. if reasons could be given for (a) placing armed guards on board Norwegian ships proceeding to Allied ports, (b) refusing passage in British ships to Norwegian nationals sailing for U.K. vide S.O.I. Capetown's 1631/15. Also request if Norwegian ships carrying American cargo to South American ports should be allowed to continue voyages unmolested. Difficult to see what advantage could be gained by diverting such a ship as BERGANGER to Freetown, thereby incurring displeasure of U.S.A. and South American countries. (C.in C., S.A.,1041/16).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

HIGHLANDER — Has been ashore. Asdic and one engine out of action, minor damage to bottom. Returning Sullom Voe. (F.O.C. 18 CS 0427/17).

PUNJABI — (Skjel Fiord) Ready to sail 16/4

HOTSPUR — do. do. 17/4

COSSACK — do. do. 24/4

In all cases limit of speed 12 knots.

ESKIMO — (Skjel Fiord) cannot be made seaworthy with local resources.

ALSTER — (Skjel Fiord) ready 18/4.

PENELOPE — do. Uncertain whether ship will be able to sail under own steam. (PENELOPE 0423/16).

Mining.

German mining. — The following, suggestive of controlled mines in two Belts, was broadcast by Germany 14/4.

Mines have been laid in the following areas, which endanger fishing and the anchorage of ships.

Great Belt between 55° 17' N. and 55° 22' N.

Little Belt between 9° 47' E. and 9° 51' E. and south of a line joining 55° 33.9' N. 9° 47' E. and 55° 36.1' N. 9° 51.1' E.

Navigation is unrestricted. (N.I.D.1/78).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Decisions as to which vessels shall be allowed to move in this connection are being made by Min. of Shipping and Admiralty, and will be communicated. (A.C.N.S. to C.in C's abroad).

Enemy Intelligence.

3 German steamers about 800 tons and auxiliary schooner GRETA at anchor Stromstad Harbour 14/4. (Gothenburg 1257/16).

Wilhelmshaven. A/c reconnaissance 16/4 pm, reported only ships at Wilhelmshaven and apart from possible s/m's, were battleship TIRPITZ under construction, and battleship SCHLESIEN class. (I.C. 0423/40).

Destroyers. 5 enemy destroyers LKND 1420 (A/C 233 Sqdn. 1910/16)(off Stadland W. Now thought possibly to have been a British force I.C.0424/40).

Enemy Unit. D.F., 2055 and 2144 B.S.T. estimated position for both transmission 58° 10' N., 03° 20' E. (D.D.I.C. 2243/16).

U 49 See Narvik.

Miscellaneous.

Bombing submarines invention. Requesting co-operation in ~~times~~ Trials of invention which claims that 70% of A/S bombs falling within 50 ft. of target will be drawn into contact with target before detonating.(Air Ministry, 1700/16).

Rostoy Island W/T. Asking Norwegians to place small guard on Rostoy I. 67° 30' N. 12° 5' E. to ensure safety of W/T D.F. station which may prove of great value in future. (D.O.D.(H)2215/16 to F.O.Narvik).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

VELI RAGNAR, crew unrest.

Finnish VELI RAGNAR, Capt Idstrom, from Havre for Narvik, crew of 21 refusing duty fear of aerial attack. Cargo ammunition. Ship was 5 k/m away in Fiord. Am pressing for requisition of local labour. (Adesund W/8,1314/16).

W E A T H E R.

0500	Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea North	N. fresh	Good
South	W. moderate	Good
Channel	S.W. light	Good
W. Approaches	W. to N.W. light	Good

Outlook. Similar.

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Magnetic mines detonated in 50° 42' N., 3° 13' 10" W. (NOIC. Liverpool 2125/16). A dangerous area was declared, closing the port of Preston. This area includes a section of the searched channel between Liverpool and the ports to the northward, and the newly established channel has added 13 miles to the distance to be covered by ships proceeding on this route. It is possible that these mines were laid at the same time as those outside Liverpool, but have remained undiscovered owing to the searched channel being to the westward of the apparent mined area, and the fact that the port of Preston is used mainly by light draught vessels (C.O.S.(40)301).

Channel cleared. My 2302/2 (area W. of Old Hd. S. Ronaldshay, declared dangerous due to possibility of mines having been dropped).Has been swept and is now considered clear. (F.O.C.O.S,0230/16).

Shipping.

Convoys. Ocean convoy positions (D.C., 1936/16)(C.in C W.A. 1336/16).

SL 26 and HG 25 arrived. (N.C.S.O.Ramsgate 1020/16).

SL 28 Position (D.T.D.1326/16)Sailing Telegram (D.T.D.1327/16).

Scandinavian Shipping. All Norwegian, Danish and neutral ships at Thosshaven, Faroes, brought to Kirkwall except Danish AMERIKA to Liverpool.(V.A.N.P. 1320/16).

My 1351/13. Icelandic, Greenland and Faroese ships may now be released provided not bound for Scandinavian, Danish, Baltic or Arctic ports and have no enemy exports on board. (Hd. of M. 2343/16).

Norwegian tankers to proceed. In order to re-start movement of Norwegian shipping it is intended to allow the Norwegian tankers time-chartered to U.S. interests to proceed to limited destinations.Further to allow certain Norwegian vessels other than tankers to proceed on certain neutral charters where there seems to be no appreciable risk that we shall thereby lose control of the vessels.

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

ARK ROYAL flights. Equipment of 800 & 801 Sqdns. to embark from Hatston subsequent allocation of fighters as between ARK ROYAL and FURIOUS is at discretion of C.in C.H.F.(D.N.A.D. 1531/16 R.A.N.A.S. 1914/16).

800 & 803 Sqdns. being re-embarked this week. Information requested when long-nosed Blenheim Sqdn. can be sent to Hatston.(D.N.AD to Air Min., 1833/16).

Skagerrak. Considerable air activity p.m., presumed to be connected with regular supplies of stores and reinforcements continually being sent to Norway by air. (I.C. 0423/40).

A/A ship, CENTURION, proposed. Suggesting mounting Army 3.7" A/A and Bofors guns with predictors in H.M.S. CENTURION to provide mobile unit in connection with landing operations in Norway. (C.in C., H.F. 1126/16).

Enemy A/C report. 10 aircraft at 5000 ft. approx., my position 342 W.P.Z.S. 32. (FURY 2002/16).

Reconnaissance of Wilhelmshaven. See Enemy Intelligence (H.Q.B.C. 0100/16, 1830/16).

Suspicious A/C. at 1550/16, dropped a dark object when over Kilfinnen. (C.in C. Rosyth,1727/16).

801 Sqdn. Cancel my 2135/13 (embarkation of 801 Sqdn. in FURIOUS). (D.N.A.D.1834/16).

Mining.

Mines exploded. 3 by formation of 3 D.W.1. machines off N.E. Spit Buoy. 3rd mine conater-mined by second. (C.in C. Nore, 1914/16).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS.

Operation RAKE.

Request for French Destroyers to sweep.

Following to Adm. Darlan from 1st S.L. - With our convoy commitments Norwegian coast find myself very short of destroyers. Would help the submarines in Skagarrak greatly if a night sweep could be carried out up to the Swedish coast by destroyers working from Rosyth. If you could spare any of your powerful contre-torpilleurs to assist us, would be of greatest assistance. (1st S.L. to B.N.L.O.Marceau, 0101/16).

When could they arriwe Rosyth (1st S.L.1611/16

War Diary.

16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Stavanger Aerodrome.

Operation DUCK.

Air attack report.

By 6 Blenheims. 5 turned back before reaching target owing to weather conditions. One completed task and dropped 4 250 Sap bombs at aerodrome, results not observed. Approx. 60 aircraft of various types seen on aerodrome. (H.Q.B.C., 1435/16).

By 12 Wellingtons. 10 failed to locate target owing to bad weather. 2 a/c observed runways on aerodrome but were unable to attack owing to low altitude at which they were flying. No suitable machine gun targets seen.(H.Q.B.C. 0350/17, 0700/17).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Stavanger Aerodrome.

Operation Duck.

A/c attacks. Various reports of attacks by a/c's (H.Q.B.C. 0812/16, Bad visibility and snow storms 0920/16) 7 a/c's completed task successfully (H.Q.B.C. 0535/16).

Stavanger aerodrome should be attacked tonight with 1 squadron heavy bombers (Air Min. 1225/16). to Bomber Command).

Weather. SEAL reports weather now good (V.A.(S)0831/16 to SUFFOLK).

Enemy reinforcements. arrived by air for Oslo and Stavanger 12/4 and 16/4 (Aalesund Nos. 2 Rec. 1800/16).

Operation DUCK. Bombardment by SUFFOLK and 4 destroyers. Orders and arrangements (D.O.D.(H)1143/16, 1410/16, Donibristle 1455/16, D.T.S.D.1532/16 (or ammunition)SUFFOLK 1600/16, at dawn 17/4 R.A.(S)1601/16, R.A.(D)H.F.1825/16, D.O.D.(H) 1855/16, C.in C. Rosyth 1958/16. Expenditure of 8" S.A.P.C. shell (D.T.S.D.1532/16 SUFFOLK 1600/16).

Enemy cruiser. observed by a/c at anchor due west Stavanger aerodrome 0912/16 (H.Q.B.C.1600/16).60 a/c's counted on aerdrome. One squadron heavy bombers will attack aerodrome tonight (D.C. 1534/16 to SUFFOLK, H.Q.B.C.1600/16) See 17/4

SUFFOLK to sweep for enemy destroyers. My 2220/16. On completion of DUCK sweep with your force to northward to intercept enemy destroyers. Air reconnaissance being arranged (1st S.L.2300/16 to SUFFOLK).

5 German destroyers passed Stavanger 1900/16 course 360° 25 knots. SUFFOLK with 4 destroyers will proceed up coast from Stavanger about 0500/17 (R.A.(S)0034/17 to TAKU, A/C 233 Sqn. 1910/16).

SEAL warned (R.A.S.0057/17).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bergen.

Offensive Reconnaissance. By 2 Skuas A 803 sqn. By A/C from 0910 hrs. (Donibristle 1242/16).

U-boat hit. One coastal s/m on surface escorted by small depot ship bombed 60° 8' N. 5° 2' E. Hit abaft conning tower by one 20 lb. bomb and did not subsequently submerge. One small auxiliary flying Nazi flag bombed and sunk 60° 31.9' N. 5° 16' E.

auxiliary sunk.

10 m.v.'s in Pudde Fiord. One 5000 ton ship Skoltegound heavy list, one 3000 ton ship also. Six ships flying Danish and Swedish flags. Skolegound Mole on fire. General impression defences not manned and less evidence of shore activity than previously (Hatston 1102/16)(The attack on the s/m was resumed 0719/17).

Reconnaissance, cancelled. 2 Skuas to reconnoitre Bergen and Bjorne Fiord at daylight tomorrow and thereafter daily. Remaining Skuas held ready to attack any suitable target reported. (A.C.O.S.1549/16) Cancel my 1549/16 (A.C.O.S. 1820/16).

War Diary.

16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Andalsnes and Molde.

Operations SICKLE.

Sickle

It has been decided to land a military force at Andalsnes as soon as possible, in addition to Primrose Force.

GALATEA

ARETHUSA

CARLISLE

CURACOA

2 destroyers

are placed under your command. 1000 troops under Brig. Morgan to embark in above ships. Forces to sail as soon as ready.

Cruisers can go alongside at Molde 62° 34' N. 7° 42' E. recommend troops from cruisers be disembarked there and ferried to Andalsnes. Important to get troops out of ships quickly on account of air attack. Reported that German seaplanes may have landed and taken Andalsnes and action has been taken in accordance with my 1329/16. Unless immediate action essential landing at dusk advisable. Operation code name SICKLE (D.O.D.(H)1633/16 to C.S.2., C.in C. Rosyth).

Brig. Morgan's orders. Land at Andalsnes area and secure Dombaas then take offensive action northwards against Germans at Trondheim. Do not land in face of opposition. 2nd echelon follows 2 days later. S.N.O. will be in command during voyage and will decide in co-operation with you where and when to land. (Admiralty 2014/16 to C.in C. Rosyth).

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Aalesund and Andalsnes.

(D.O.D.(H) 2220/16)(These 5 destroyers were never located and it was subsequently thought they must have been British).

U-boat attacked. CALCUTTA dropped 2 d.c's on U-boat 3 miles W. of Aandalesnes, unlikely to have damaged it. Am proceeding out to seaward without having ascertained whether Germans have landed (CALCUTTA 2240/16).

W/T Communication. Information received Aalesund W/T is again in communication with Norwegian Government. (War Registry 1445/16).

Air Attack. Enemy A/C bombing in position 333 BQZS 8. (ASHANTI, 1429/16).

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

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War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Aalesund and Andalsnes.

Landing party.

Information received that Germans about to land from seaplanes at Aandalesnes 62° 34' N. 7° 38' E. in Romsdals Fiord.

JUPITER is proceeding to prevent landing or engage enemy if ashore until CALCUTTA arrives.

On arrival CALCUTTA is to land party about 50 to obtain footing and ships are to withdraw.

A force of 700 Seamen and Marines is now on passage in BLACK SWAN, FLAMINGO, BITTERN, AUCKLAND and expects to arrive late 17/4.

(D.C.N.S. 1329/16 to JUPITER, CALCUTTA).

Have no chart of Aandalsnes (JUPITER 1405/16 to R.A.(D) H.F.).

Earliest can arrive Storholm light is 2000. Intend proceeding towards Aandalsnes as far as daylight permits and if unable to land parties tonight will do so at dawn tomorrow. (CALCUTTA, 1605/16).

Instructions for entry (D.O.D.(H)1612/16 to CALCUTTA, JUPITER).

My 1329/16. Germans may have already landed, if so, unless they are in very small force await reinforcements before attacking (D.C.1617/16 to JUPITER, CALCUTTA).

As CALCUTTA will arrive Aandalsnes before JUPITER latter to go Skelfiord (D.C.N.S. 1727/16).

EFFINGHAM
YORK
ASHANTI

Steer for Aalesund with utmost despatch. (1st S.L. 2037/16) Positions (EFFINGHAM 2216/16, YORK 2315/16, ASHANTI 0030/17).

5 Enemy destroyers ? going to land troops at Aandalsnes.

Five German destroyers sighted off Stavanger 25 knots at 1900, possible they are proceeding to land a force at Aandalsnes. CALCUTTA proceeding to Aandalsnes is now to eastward of Storholm light. BLACK SWAN and 3 sloops are taking 600 seamen and marines to Aandalsnes, (position). Your object is to prevent enemy destroyers entering Romsdal Fiord and landing at Aandalsnes. C.O., YORK is to take charge of the operation.

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Aalesund and Andalsnes.

Operation Primrose.

(Capt. Denny. BLACK SWAN, BITTERN, FLAMINGO, AUCKLAND). Communication between Norwegian H.Q. and Aalesund Radio is interrupted.

Sailing. Intend to sail Primrose 1000/16 (BLACK SWAN 0915/16 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Trawlers AMUS and VIENA now at Aalesund were bought by Admiralty previous to invasion. Use them as you think fit. (D.O.D.(H)1234/16 to BLACK SWAN).

Despatch necessary. Proceed by shortest route. Despatch is necessary (D.O.D.(H)1440/16 to BLACK SWAN).

Route (BLACK SWAN 1615/16 to Admiralty).

Primrose now proceeding with despatch by shortest route (C.in C. Rosyth 1621/16 to C.in C., H.F., FOCOS, FOC 1815, FOC2CS, GLASGOW).

A.A. guns wanted (Brit. Rep. with Norw.C.in C. 2152/16).

CALCUTTA Proceed with utmost despatch to Aandalsnes in Romsraes Fiord 62° 34' N. 7°38' E. further orders follow (D.C.1310/16 to CALCUTTA).

JUPITER As CALCUTTA (D.D.O.D.(H)1244/16).

Weather. C.in C. Rosyth 1020/16 to BLACK SWAN, O.C. Air Arm, Aalesund, 1520/16.

War Diary.

16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Trondheim.

Plan for capture. Capture of Trondheim considered essential. Proposed plan. Land 600 Marines at Andalsnes (not Aalesund) 17/4, to be reinforced earliest opportunity. You to exploit from Namsos while force from Andalsnes will also threaten Trondheim in conjunction with Norwegian forces. Meanwhile combined operation for direct attack on Trondheim will be timed to take advantage of your pressure. If exploitation possible presume you will use Phillips' Brigade from Lillesjona. Suggest follow up with 3 battalions Chasseurs who could be directed to Lillesjona. All troops operating from Namsos under your command. Forces making direct attack on Trondheim, under separate independent command. (D.O.D.(H)0020/16 to Capt. D6 for Carton de Wiart).

Land forces. So far as known 3000 Norwegians at Trondheim. Town strongly held with automatic weapons and light guns (Aalesund W/T, Brit. Rep. with C.in C. Norway 1130/16).

Enemy a/cs. 20 or 30 seaplanes, 8 bombers, uncertain number of a/c's. (Aalesund M.3 1130/16).

Enemy reinforcements. About 50 transport a/c's seen moving towards Trondheim. (Aalesund No. 2 Rec. 1800/16).

Bombers to attack. You should attack Trondheim aerodrome with ½ sqn. heavy bombers to-night and be prepared to increase effort to-morrow night.(Air Min. 1225/16 to Bomber Command).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Namsos.

Operations Henry and Maurice.

Norwegian Troops. Disposition of Norwegian troops, who are far from bellicose and lack leadership on all levels (Capt. D4 2258/16 to Admiralty).

Namsos best landing place. Your 2109/16. Yes, 25,000 ton ship should arrive dusk 18/4, remaining ships dusk 19/4. General considers Namsos only convenient landing place. A/A cruiser desirable, destroyers have not much H.A. ammunition (Capt. D4 2326/16 to Admiralty).

1000 men landed. Have brought 1000 men to Namsos to-day, hope to bring remainder of Phillips' Brigade 17/4. Enemy a/c's still bombing at leisure.(Capt. D4 2327/16).

Disembarkation completed. My 2115/16. Disembarkation completed (Capt. D4 2323/16 to C.S.18).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Namsos.

Operations Henry and Maurice.

Co-operation with Trondheim force. Operations from Namsos in co-operation with force to attack Tronheim (D.O.D.(H)0020/16 to Capt. D6 for Cartonde Wiart). See Trondheim.

Enemy's air superiority. If it is essential to advance the sooner it is done the better. Little cover, much snow here. When I attack (Trondheim operation) strong action necessary against enemy air activity. If there is to be Naval attack at Trondheim and it is successful Gen. Audet should attack as soon as possible after it. (Capt. D6 0126/16 to Admiralty for C.G.S. from Gen.Wiart part 2 of his 0125/16).

No landing possible from transports. No possibility of landing troops from troop-ship here on account of enemy activity. Landing must be at night from destroyers. Hope to land 2 battalions (?might) 16/17 April, 3rd battalion of Brigade night 17/18 April. Chief difficulty is enemy air superiority, we have no planes at all. Believe enemy suspect attempt to land troops (Capt. D6 0125/16).

Air attack. 18th C.S. was persistently attacked by enemy bombers from 1300 onwards, transports in company narrowly missed being hit (I.C.0423/40) (C.S.18, 1615/15).

Disembarkation. commenced and proceeding smoothly (Capt. D4 2115/16 to F.O.C. 18 GS).

Air Situation &C. I am so concerned that the dangerous air situation and conditions generally on Norwegian coast are not fully appreciated that I submit consideration may be given to my flying to London to give an eye-witness report of conditions in Trondheim area (Capt.D6 2145/16 to R.A.(D) H.F.).

HENRY D6's 1730/16 Operation Henry is to take place as arranged. (D.O.D.(H) /16 to GLASGOW).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik.

Operation RUPERT.

Cancel my 2135/13 (embarkation of 801 Sqn. in FURIOUS)(D.N.A.D. 1834/16 to C.in C., H.F.).

RUPERT begins. For General Backesey from W.O. Your code name now is RUPERT (D. of P. 1941/16 to F.O.Narvik)

Oil situation. Owing to diversion of WAR PINDARI oil situation here is becoming acute. As Skjel Fiord and Vaags Fiord are 300 miles steaming apart essential to maintain order at such place (F.O. Narvik 2210/16 to Admiralty).

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Namsos.

Operations Henry and Maurice.

A/S trawlers. 8 A/S trawlers of 21st A/SSF and 23rd A/S Group are due Namsos p.m/16. S.O.Trawlers in INDIAN STAR. (D.O.D.(H)1025/16 to C.S.18). Operate in Namsos are under orders of GLASGOW (F.O. 18 C.S., 1747/16 to INDIA STAR).

French troops. Gen Wiart requests French troop convoy may be sailed as soon as possible (C.S.18 1101/16 to Admiralty).

A/c attack on destroyer. 15/4. Description (Donibristle 1215/16).

Landing party (military). 2 battalions embarked in AFRIDI, MATABELE, MASHONA, NUBIAN, SIKH and left Lillesjona for Namsos 1345/16. SOMALI sailed for Scapa 1300 (C.S.18 1401/16 to Admiralty).

Naval landing parties. Will be reembarked night 16/17 April, SHEFFIELD'S parties from Namsos in AFRIDI, GLASGOW'S from Bangsund in another destroyer.(F.O.C. 18C.S. 1659/16 to GLASGOW). GLASGOW'S in MATABELE. Destroyers are wanted back at Lillesjona as soon as possible (Capt. D4 1718/16 to GLASGOW, SHEFFIELD).

My position at noon to-morrow with CHROBRY in company. (C.S.18 to Capt. D4 1839/16).

F.O.C.18 C.S. 1659. Cruisers intend to enter Namsur Fiord 0200/17 and stop off Kroken (GLASGOW 2022/16 to Capt. D4).

CHROBRY with remainder of Phillips' Brigade due Namsos dusk 17/4.

French Chasseurs. The Chasseurs intended for Namsos are now at sea, first intention to send them to Lillejona and tranship by destroyers no longer possible owing to air menace at Lillejona. Should whole or part of this force (3 ships 5000 tons draught 18 ft. and one 10,000 draught 26 ft.) be sent to Namsos, if so when (C.N.S. 2109/16 to Captain D4).

War Diary.

16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik.

Barva aerodrome. Air Ministry urge all possible steps be taken to prevent aerodrome at Barva being used by Germans (D.O.D.(H) 1556/16 to SOUTHAMPTON).

Air attacks on 18th C.S. Persistent air attacks from 1300. Several near misses on transports. Am transferring all troops remaining in E. OF AUSTRALIA to CHOBRY and sending her to Namsos.

Consider Lillejona anchorage is too close to enemy aerodromes to use for convoys, suggest all reinforcements and stores for Namsos be sent direct to them in small ships (C.S.18 1615/15 to Admiralty).

Can you arrange with Norwegian Naval authorities that they are responsible no U-boats pass south through Gi-Sund and North through Thelsunder Channels (C.O.I.C. Narvik 1625/16 to FURIOUS). Reply. Norwegians will assume responsibility for this from 0600/17 (F.O.C.I. C.S. 0202/17).

Operation in Rombaks Fiord. Asking V.A.B.C.S. to consider operation by ARETHUSA, WARSPITE, AURORA (? base ship) and destroyers to sink large ferry steamers in Rombaks Fiord supplying German detachments around Gratangen, AURORA and some destroyers to cut out steamers in Herkangs Fiord. Whilst in progress VINDICTIVE to land one battalion infantry in Bogon (F.O. Narvik 1800/16 to VA.C.B.C.S.).

Rostoy Island. W/T Station. Asking for Norwegians to place a small guard on Rostoy Island to ensure safety of W/T D.F. station (D.O.D.(H) to F.O. Narvik 2215/16)

U49 sunk. At 1054/15 U49 was sunk by FEARLESS in Vaags Fiord in 68° 53' 30" N. 16° 59' 30" E. (VALIANT 1600/16).

Transports to return. Shortage of shipping renders it essential for transports to return without delay. If escorts not available empty transports should for present be sailed independently for Clyde, should be routed well to westward and should zig-zag through U-boat zone.(D.C.N.S.1826/16 to F.O. Narvik, C.S.18).

War Diary

16. 4. 40.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

REPULSE — FRANCONIA is to accompany this convoy and to be diverted or to proceed subsequently to Narvik area. REPULSE to be sailed to act as cover (D.O.D.(H)1419/16).

Admiral Derrien sailed in EMILE BERTIN to follow route and join company with F.P.1 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1957/16).

Operations.

Narvik. — Admiralty 0101/16. Admiral Darlan has agreed in principle to send 8th Division centre-Torpilleurs - INDOMPTABLE, MALIN, TRIOMPHANT - further confirmatory signal follows. (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 1045/16).

Air attack. — on anchorage and attacked where troops are landed 1400 - 1700/16. No ship hit, no casualties afloat or ashore. (F.O.I.C.Narvik 2020/16 to Admiralty).

W/T. — Communication (F.O. Narvik 0040/16).

Fuelling. — C.in C. H.F. 1929/15 most urgent requirements of my squadron and Tribals can be met, leaving 4000 tons for FURIOUS and 1st C.S. (C.S.18 0103/16 to Admiralty).

Situation — at Skjel Fiord (PENELOPE 0423/16).

Disembarkation at Harstad. — First convoy completely disembarked at Harstad today. German defences now known to be strong and assault impracticable. Until snows melt about end April operations across country on any scale impossible and troops need shelter at night. Intend therefore to move 2 battalions south, one by sea to Bergen 68°30' N. 17° E. one my small craft to Skaanland 68° 34' N. 16° 45' E. preparatory to advance on Germans in position W. of Bjerkvik 68° 33' N. 17° 33' E. Movement to begin 19/4. On arrival of Chasseurs intended to operate against Germans about Gratangen. Action being taken to damage railway as far as possible by ship's fire. Anchorage at Vaagsfiord unsuitable for transports. Ships not required to unload should go to Tromso until they can be handled. Undesirable B.B.C. should indicate Narvik is in our hands (F.O. Narvik 1207/16 to Admiralty).

Forces to be redistributed 19/4 to position nearer Narvik.

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

ARK ROYAL to join Home Fleet. Request you will sail ARK ROYAL to join Home Fleet forthwith (D.O.D.(F)1109/16 to F.O.C.N.A)

My 1109/16. ARK ROYAL is to proceed to Clyde (D.O.D.(H) 1558/16).

GLORIOUS and ARK ROYAL recalled to join Home Fleet. (D.O.D.(F)1147/16).

GLORIOUS — When ready to leave clyde, to proceed Scapa, disembark one T.S.R. Sqdn., and embark 803 Sqdn. (th S.L. 1413/16).

French submarines. CASABIANCA (S.O.), SFAX, ACHILLE and PASTEUR due Harwich 17/4 to proceed to patrol in northern portion of North Sea and on completion of their patrols will proceed Dundee to join 9th S.F. (V.A.S. 2144/15).

CURLEW — Expect to arrive 1645 (CURLEW 1120/16 to F.O.C 18th C.S.)

GLORIOUS } ARKROYAL } — Have been recalled to join Home Fleet (D.O.D(F) 1147/16 to C.in C.E.1).

Submarines. Positions 0600/17. (D.C.2024/16, 0341/17).

Troop Convoys. NSM.1 Admiralty 2206/12. Convoy NSM. One is to be sailed as soon as ready as follows:- CYCLOPS, CHARLBURY, LOMBARDY, MCGREGOR LAIRD and LOCHEE to Narvik Area. BLACKHEATH with vehicles of PHILLIPS Brigade to sail with this convoy and to be detached to Lillesjona or Namsos as ordered by C.S.18. CEDAR BANK with vehicles of Morgan's Brigade to be held at Scapa until further notice. C.S.18 pass to De Wiart. C.in C. Rosyth pass to Morgan. (D.O.D.(H), 1233/16).

Convoy F.P.1. My 2145/15. F.P.One to proceed direct to Lillesjona, 66° 14' N., 13° 00' E., and not call at Scapa. C.in C. Rosyth to give route instructions.

War Diary. 16. 4. 40.

HOME COMMANDS.

Situation Report.

Andalsnes.

CALCUTTA was diverted to land a force of 50 or so pending arrival of PRIMROSE, as it was reported that Andalsnes was being occupied by troops from seaplanes. CALCUTTA arrived early 17/4 and sighted a U-boat close to Andalsnes; after attacking it unsuccessfully she retired to seaward.

Convoy TP1 (GALATEA, ARETHUSA, CARLISLE, CURACOA and 2 destroyers) with 1000 troops under Brig. Morgan sailed 0800/17 for Molde when the troops will probably be disembarked and ferried to Andalsnes.

Convoy FP1 with French escort and French troops has sailed from Clyde and will be covered by REPULSE. Present destination Lillesjona.

British air activity.

At 0545/16 a Hudson attacked a U-boat without success about 30 miles W. of Karmo.

Bombing of Stavanger aerodrome was ordered but owing to bad weather bombs were dropped. About 60 a/c's of 803 Sqn. carried out offensive reconnaissance of Bergen 16/4 and bombed and sank a small auxiliary vessel.

War Diary.

16. 4. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Situation Report.

Kirkenes. C.S.1 in DEVONSHIRE with BERWICK 2 destroyers at Kirkenes reports the ammunition ship (see F.O.C.B.C.S. 0920/14) was released by Norwegian Government several days ago and has sailed for Finland, to which government her cargo belongs. Only one battalion of Norwegian troops is ready and this is being escorted to Tromso in hired transports and should arrive 17/4.

Tromso. FURIOUS and 3 destroyers arrived Tromso 16/4 on 14/4 her a/c carried out photographic reconnaisance of Narvik and was fired at by A.A. guns.

Narvik. WARSPITE and 10 destroyers are patrolling near Vest Fiord.

HARDY is total wreck and her asdic equipment inacessible (D.C.N.S.226).

At 1054/15 U49 was sunk in Vaagsfiord by FEARLESS, BRAZEN, AMETHYST when sweeping ahead of Troop Convoy on its arrival. 4 Officers 36 ratings saved.

Namsos. EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and CHROBRY, with CS 18 in MANCHESTER and remainder of escort which arrived am/16 were bombed persistently at Lillesjona 16/4, no direct hits.

CS 18 has joined 2 battalions of Brigadier Phillips' Brigade and some stores in 4 destroyers to Namsos where disembarkation was completed 1323/16. Two destroyers subsequently embarked the Naval landing parties from Namsos and returned them to GLASGOW and SHEFFIELD.

In view of the air menace CS 18 transferred the remaining troops from EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA to CHROBRY, also as many stores as possible, and all proceeded to sea 0300/17. D4 will take over escort of CHROBRY 1200/17 and lead her into Namsos at dusk.

U BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported. Contd.

1705 — Reported by French EMILE BERTIN, 60° 59'N, 03° 37'W., about 68 miles N.W. of Shetlands (IC 0424/40)

1800 — Shore report 68° 10'N., 40'E in West Fiord course N (IC 0424/40)

1940 — Shore report, 68° 11° N., 15° 40'E in West Fiord course S (IC 0424/47)

My 2106 further report states U-Boat turned south (PENELOPE, 2118/17) BEDOVIN, etc., ordered to hunt (PENELOPE 2220/17)

0719 — By air craft 60. 10 N., 08. 09 E., at mouth of Bjorne Fiord (D.D.I.C. 1330/17 (Donibristle, to T.O.O. (17)

1233 — By air craft L.K.B.P. 1730. Walrus air craft report was oil streak, no submarine was sighted. (R.A. (D) H.F., 1447/17)

0430 — 69° 20'N., 16° 50'E (O.C., 2114/17) Reported of uncertain origin transmitted by C.S.I. (DEVONSHIRE) (C.S.I. 1011/17)

2143 — D.F. 59° 30'N., 0° 30'W., probable U-Boat unreliable fix (D.D.I.C., 2220/17

2136 — D.F. 59° 2°40'E., probable U-Boat, unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 2220/17)

1705 — Reported by EMILE BERTIN, 60° 59'N., 03° 27'W. (EMILE BERTIN, 1705/17)

1800 — Submarine, 68° 10'N., 14° 40'E steering N. ENCOUNTER sent to investigate (PENELOPE, 2106/17)

1940 — Submarine 68° 11'N., 15° 40'E course N. Captain (d) 8 to investigate. (PENELOPE, 2106/17)

2010 — Admiralty 1744/17 "A" sighted at 2010/17 (D.A.S.W 1035/18)

Submarines Attacked

0719 — By air craft at entrance to Korstrior 60° 10'N 5° 9'E. Estimated 1 hit (IC 0423/40) (Air craft 224 squadron 0719/17) (Donibristle, No T.O.O./17)

War Diary

17.4.1940.
Wednesday.

U Boat Campaign & Mining

Ships Attacked

SWAINBY

Torpedoed, sunk.

British (4935 tons) torpedoed at 1635/17 in 61° 2'N 0° 12'W 23 miles from mackle Hugga. Crew of 38 saved landed in own boats at Norwich (A.C.O.S 1050/18, 1615/18 IC 0425/40, 0430/40)

SUFFOLK
missed

Missed by Torpedo about 0500 in 59° N 5° 20'E where bombarding Stavanger see Stavanger (Operations)

Submarines Reported.

Positions taken up by U-Boats at the commencement of the present operations were as follows:-

A. 58° 40' N., 1° 0'W.

B. 59° 00' N., 1° 0' W

C. 59° 40' N., 0° 30'W

D. 59° 40' N., 0° 45'E

E. 59° 12' N., 0° 45'E

F. 61° 5' N., 3° 10'E

G. 60° 45' N., 3° 10'E

H. 60° 28' N., 3° 10'E

I. 60° 10'N., 3° 10'E

J. 59° 50'N., 3° 10'E

K. 59° 00'N., 3° 45'E

L. 58° 40'N., 3° 45'E

M. 58° 22'N., 5° 30'E

N. 58° 5' N., 5° 30'E

O. 58° 5' N., 6° 10'E

P. 57° 50'N., 6° 40'E

In addition ten more U/B's including those four whose positions were given in my 1438/16 were operating further to the northward and 2 probably to westward of Orkneys. (A.1) (D.D.I.C., 0018/17) positions to be denoted by letters (1744/17)

War Diary

17.4.1940.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

China

CASSEL	Legal attachments removed, Sourabaga (Captain O.S. Singapore, 13022/17)
NORDMARK	At Batavia, has painted her funnel grey (Captain O.S. Singapore, 13022/17)
Danish Cable Ships	Admiralty 0053/12 two out of 3 cable routes from Hong King to Shanghai out of action. Importance of Danish cable ships returning to duty as soon as possible (C. in C., China 0328 Z/17)

America & West Indies.

PAULINE FREDRICH	At Boston. Cargo reported seized by Customs authorities. Gulf Oil Co., have asked for return of their cargo loaded at Port Arthur on outbreak of war and destined for Hamburg (Lloyd's Gazette)
PATRICIA	My 2355/10 embargo not yet re imposed (s.O.I. Kingston 1021/17)

War Diary. 17.4.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Norwegian Ships etc. Under Japanese charter. Japanese fear of another ASAMA MARU incident, request advice. (N.L.O. Shanghai 1123/17. C. in C. China 1619 Z/17).

Importance of getting ships out of Japan now, and difficulties of interception. (C. in C. China 1027 Z/17).

Danish Cable Ships. Your 0328/17. Concur in urgency. Remedy lies in obtaining earliest possible permission from Hong Kong Prize Court. (Hd. of M. 1321/17 to C. in C. China).

Your 0427/16 approved. Favourable treatment described in Colonial Office telegram 147 is of course intended for ships which come in voluntarily or arrange to be intercepted at sea. (Hd. of M., 1320/17 to C. in C. China).

America and West Indies.

Norwegian Ships. At Bermuda, details. (C. in C. A. & W.I. 1802/17).

Cuba declared today Danish and Norwegian steamers non-belligerent. (Press Havana).

Bermuda Convoy. First Bermuda Convoy can be sailed 7/5 to join with Hx 41. Requirements. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1150/16).

ARCHIMEDE French S/m., arrived Halifax. (S.O.(I) Halifax 0930/17).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies (Contd.).

CARADOC — Your 0262/15 Canadian Govt., agrees temporarily emplying CARADOC West Indies. Assume that if situation developes requiring a cruiser at Esquimalt you would be prepared to do this. (C. in C., Ottawa ro C. in C., A.W.I. 1549/17)

Scandinavian Shippers — Norwegian-America line postponed indefinitely sailing liner BERGENSFJORD now uncertain future Norway's merchant fleet. BERGENSFJORD arrived yesterday. Scandinavian shippers meeting New York Tuesday what to do with ships stated "Part confusion results ex conflicting statements British. First they told us they would give our ships protection then we are told they would be seized, taken into Prize Courts and brought by allies (Press, New York 17/4)

Omission of Bermuda as a port of call by Pan-American Transatlantic Air Service makes important gap in our censorship and I learn Germans have quickly taken advantage to send precision instruments, industrial diamonds and information to Europe. Suggestion that pressure might be brought to bear on P.A.T.A.S.(Lothian (Washington) No 543, 17/4)

Australia.

SEIRSTAD — Norwegian Tanker, Fremantle, to be despatched to Singapore for orders if armed guard can be arranged (Aust. N.B., 1829/17)

Scandinavian Ships — Your 1547/16. Concur. No objection to Danish and Norwegian ships being instructed to listen for G.B.M.S. broadcats though some may be in cypher and therefore unintelligible.(Hd of M to Aust. N.B. 1832/17)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French forces. Convoys and patrols, positions 1300/17. (D.C., 0101/17).

Danish ships. Refusals to sail before orders from New York. (S.O.I., Gib., 1308/17).

Norwegian trawlers. THORSHAVN and SOUTH AMERICA. Your 1650/16. Should proceed Trinidad for orders if armed g guards can be arranged (D. of S.T., 2023/17 to F.O.C.N.A.).

South Atlantic.

Norwegian ships. Tankers NEW ZEALAND and NORDANGER now Durban should be despatched to Bahrein for orders if armed guards can be arranged. (D. of S.T., 2019/17).
KOLLBJORG, at Port Stanley. Request instructions (N.O.I.C. Port Stanley, 2004Z/17).
SCEBELI, due Freetown 25/4. Request instructions (C-in-C., S.A. 1911/17).
Committee under Sec. of Commerce and Industry appointed (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1159/17).
List of Danish and Norwegian ships and cargoes. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1859/17).

Danish ships. My 0726/13, 1st sentence. Danish ships on charter to nations of U.S.A. Italy and Japan are now to be seized in prize. (C-in-C., S.A., 0650/17).

Norwegian Ship. Your 1041/16. Suggest Norwegian ships on British and neutral charter continuing normal running should also be considered immune. Intend to go to Bueunos Aires 22/4, visit most desirable politically (R.A.S.A.D., 1332/17).

Mediterranean.

MORGENEN — Norwegian tanker, to be despatched to Gib., for orders (D. of S.T. to SBNO, Suez Canal, 2020/17).

AASE MARSK — Your 1226/17. Danish tanker. To be sent Haifa under armed guard and there seized in prize. (C-in-C., Med. to R.A. Alexandria, 1913/17).

War Diary.

17.4.40.
Wednesday.

Casualties and Defects.

ASIATIC	My 2010/15. S.S. ASIATIC refloated by Master without assistance. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 112/17).
THISTLE	(See 14/4) Presumed lost (Adty. communique). Formally paid off from 14/4. (M. 07407/40).
SUFFOLK	Damaged see Stavanger.

War Diary. 17.4.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Howitzer Battery. 3.7" Howitzer Battery to be found Eastney at once, 7 guns crews and Battery Hq. Will embark 20/4 at Clyde or Rosyth. (A.C.N.S. 2255/17).

Naval Batteries. To be formed to defend 2 widely reported landing places. Details. (D.T.S.D., 2256/17, 1647/17, to C-in-C., Portsmouth, EXCELLENT, etc.).

Belgian lights. Lights in Channel Oostgat and Wielingen now burning normal but subject to extinction without notice (N.C.S.O Antwerp 1055/17).

W/T signalling. Urging immediate steps to cut down volume of W/T traffic from Adty. To ships of Fleet, Adty. Commincations staff, coderers, typists has been vastly increased but communications staffs of ships have been reduced and diluted. Ships cannot deal with mass of stuff now on the air, important matters get lost under file of unimportant stuff which is often altered before it is decoded. If volume cannot be reduced communications staff of Fleet should be increased in same ratio as at Admiralty. Small ships for long periods have to read almost continuous W/T routines in addition to keeping watch on their inter-communication wave. (C-in-C., H.F. 2135/17 to Adty).

BORKUM German prize, being refloated shortly. Enquiring as to suitability as blockship. (D. of L.D. 1650/17).

WEATHER.

0500	Wind.	Visibility.
North Sea.	Light, variable.	Good except for haze, near coasts.
Horns Reef.	Light, variable.	Low, improving.
Channel.	E. moderate.	Good. Low in showers.
W. Approaches.	E.N.E.	Good, deteriorating in rain.

South Norway (Norway 1615/17).

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.).

Troops. Reported to be crossing from Denmark to Norway 0500/18 (Amsterdam 2330/17).

SCHARNHORST See Trondheim.

U-boat positions. Paper taken from U.49 indicates following grouping of U-boats. (VALIANT 2101/15, 2146/15.

ADMIRAL SCHEER, torpedoed. At 0030 6'N. of Skaw, SPEARFISH carried out surface attack lasting 5 minutes on ADMIRAL SCHEER, steering 16° 25knots apparently unscreene At least one heavy explosion heard. Continued tc westward until 0315 then bottomed until 2100 with battery exhausted. Report of other operatic 7th to 14th, when abandoned patrol owing to damage to mechanism. (S.6, 1714/17).

Armoured trains. Reliable source reports amoured trains being put in service on line Oslo to Trondheim Bergen and Eidsvold (Gothenburg 1217/17).

Unknown unit. By D/F at 0522 BST 57°50'N, 6°50'E unreliable fix. (D.C. 0605/17).

U-boats. Positions taken up by U-boats at commencement of present operations were as follows. In addition, 10 more U-boats including those 4 whose positions were given in my 1438/16 were operating further to northward and 2 probably to westward of Orkneys (D.D.I.C. 0018/17 to ships in area A etc).
U-boats positions in 0018/17 are referred to hereafter as A to P consecutively. All are of 250 tons. All are probably ordered to patrol within 10 miles of positions stated. C. was probably sunk 9/4, J was sighted 10/4, K was sighted 9/4 and 16/4 (D.A/S.W. 1744/17).
Understood 9th D.F. is proceeding to deal with enemy S/M's reported in 0018/17. Request A/S operations may be confined to area North of line Utsive - Aberdeen. Only British S/M north of this line is TAKU who ~~are~~ in XKOX 2035 at 0600/17 and has been directed to proceed southward on surface along 2°E. Request I may be informed if TAKU is likely to encounter these destroyers (R.A.(S) 1226/17 to R.A.(D).H.F.).

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping (Contd).

MJ.	Will leave Methil tomorrow, escort VEGA HASTINGS (C-in-C., Rosyth, 1008/17).
HX.32	10 ships for London. (N.C.S.O., Thames, 0917/17).
OA.130.G.	Route (C-in-C., W.A. 1154/17).
OB.133.G.F.	Route (C-in-C., W.A., 1156/17).
OA.131	Number and speed etc. (N.C.S.O., Thames, 1211/17, 1456/17.
	Bermuda convoy to join HX.41 (C-in-C., W.A., 1150/16).
OB.131	(N.C.S.O., Clyde 0550/17).
Contraband Control.	Amendments to Admty 1110/12 (D.N.W.D., to C-in-C., Med., etc. 2125/17).

Enemy Intelligence.

KOLN	Which is believed to be the cruiser attacked by F.A.A. fighters at Bergen 10/4; information is that she was heavily damaged but no confirmation that she was sunk (I.C.0423/40).
Transports.	Trustworthy reports that German steamers presumably transports are passing northward inside territorial waters (Gothenburg, 1229/17 to D.N.I.). Swedish report, reliable, 15/4 about 16 transports with 4000 men observed passing up west coast Sweden. Leading ship of first group mined sunk 1400 10-15 miles W. Maseskar, remainder of group reached Oslo, other groups turned back and believed still lying in S. Kattegat (N.A., Stockholm, 1558/17 to Adty).
5 destroyers.	Re. 1443 from A/C. 5 destroyers 270° Statlandet 20 course 070° speed 25 knots have 2 funnels and are considered definitely enemy (C-in-C., Rosyth, 1632/17).
2 destroyers.	2 enemy destroyers PFJV, 0040 course 050 speed 20 knots, rest not seen, cloud, visibility 200. (A/C 228 Sqn. 1815/17, C-in-C., Rosyth 2350/17, Donibristle, 1448/17). C-in-C., Rosyth 1632/17. Report if enemy destroyers located (1st S.L. 1838/17 to SHEFFIELD, YORK, GLASGOW).

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (Contd.).

Skier Fjord. is reliably reported mined by enemy (I.C.0423/17).

British Minelaying. NARWHAL's report of patrol 12-15/4, inculding laying FD.5 at 1630/13 (S.6 1031/17).
Your 1135/12 (Minelaying in Skudennes Fjord).
Where are 20th DF. required (C-in-C., H.F. 1027/17 to Adty).
Admiralty announce new British minefield at entrance to Firth of Clyde.

Shipping.

Concealed Mails. Serious leakage through contraband control bases in matter of concealed mails or mails carried by members of crews of liners. Greater attention to be given to searching ships' spaces, deck cargoes, and in particular crews and stewards' quarters for concealed packages. Report received that bales of rags from Roumania to U.S.A. conceal German exports of small articles of high value. (D.E.W.D., 1132/17).

Scandinavian Ships. Master of Swedish, Danish and Norwegian ships have asked if list of ships given by B.B.C. may imply that the ships have been brought in and not announced "Have arrived", to prevent possible reprisals against the families of crews by Germans. (C.C.S.O., Kirkwall, 1209/17).

Norwegian ships. Broadcast warning that telegams from Norway signed by owners are sent by the Germans. Masters should get in communication with nearest British or French naval authority. (D.T.D., 0056/17).

Iceland ships, etc. Ships owned by Iceland, Greenland and Faroes may be released (my 1751/13) provided not bound for Scandinavian, Danish, Baltic or Arctic ports and have no enemy exports on board (V.A.N.P., 1337/17) (Also VANP 1046, cancelled 1248/17).

AMERICA Danish, reported off Dublin, to be reported (D.N.I., 1500/17) (C-in-C., W.A. 1856/17, 2150/17) Position reported by A/C. (C-in-C., W.A., 2150/17) Returned Liverpool 0721/18 (N.O.I.C., Liverpool, 0721/18).

Convoy Orders. Commodors not to issue separate orders (reasons). (D.T.D., 1642/17).

Convoys Positions. (D.C., 1945/17).

OA.132 WINDSOR to escort in place of WILD SWAN (C-in-C., W.A., 1114/17).

War Diary. 17.4.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

AIR.

Enemy Air activity. Attack by enemy A/C is imminent in Orkney and Shetland area. (Scapa Base 0822/17).
In addition to the attacks on SUFFOLK and extensive reconnaissance in Orkneys area, there were 30 X raids off E. and S.E. coasts from 2000/17. Many believed to have been for mine-laying, and the Downs have been closed as a precaution. (D.C.N.S. 22%).

ERIN Netherlands trawler, on returning Ymuiden on 21/4, reported she was machine-gunned on 17/4 by a German A/C near the Skagerrak and Norwegian coast, at 58°50'N., 2°20'E.

Enemy A/C's reported. Shadowing etc. (GLASGOW 0532/17, JUPITER 0600/17, YORK 1429/17, 1250/17, GALATEA 1740/17, ASHANTI 1749/17 (1 A/C over Aandalsnes). ESCORT 2047/17, Air attack imminent (Portsmouth W/T 2238/17). SEALION 2316/17) RODNEY shadowed in WHPN 1452/ (C-in-C., H.F. 1130/17). SPEEDWELL, 1228/17).

British air activity. Instructions for bombing of ships extended to Oslo Fiord. Special care to be taken to to infringe Swedish territorial waters (Air Min. 1350/17).

Dutch trawler, alleged attack. Dutch trawler ADELANTE, IJM.19, reports she was attacked by a British bomber on 17/4 in the vicinity of 58°. Machine suddenly opened fire with machine guns, and flew off. (Telegraaf, 24/4, and N.A. Hague Press Summary 60/40).

Air Striking Force. What has happened to Air Striking Force, defence SUFFOLK should have had?. I trust it will now be provided immediately (C-in-C., H.F. 1313/17 to Adty).

Mining.

Would Clearance. All available LL. trawlers and LL experimental tugs Nore Command to be concentrated Yarmouth to form a Mine Clearance Flotilla to clear inshore war channel through the Would. Comdr. J. Peterson. VERNON experimental Flotilla, to be in command. (D.M.S. 1856/17).

Enemy minelaying. In view enemy minelaying activity during night of 17-18/4, 1856/17 is cancelled. (D.M.S.1015/18).
A parachute was dropped 133° Ramsgate Pier 3 miles at 2335 during the night 17/18.
M/S drifted PLEMER states Edinburgh Lt. V. reports 2215/17 unidentified A/C circled 2 hours, splash heard 2330, explosion due East 1510 (C-in-C., Nore 1559/18, 1251/19).

War Diary. 17.4.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Skagerrak and Kattegat.

Operation RAKE.

Sweep by destroyers.

JAVELIN, TARTAR, BLYSKAWICA, GROM to proceed 0800/17 to carry out sweep in Skagerrak or along South coast Norway during darkness 17/18 April. Object, to destroy all enemy shipping and warships. If observed entering Skagerrak retire in time to be west of Lyster Lt. by daylight. Otherwise JAVELIN has complete discretion. Air protection will be provided if required. S/M's will be warned (R.A.(D) 0023/17, 0031/17, A.H.O.0237/17.
My 0023/17 Operation postponed 24 hours. (.R.A. (D) 0816/17).
My 1301. Destroyer sweep is cancelled (V.A. (S) 0034/18).
Reference operations that appears to have been staged of sending destroyers to do a sweep in Borus Bay, of which I was not informed, although I have every sympathy with extraordinarily hard time our submarines are having and the good work they are doing I do not consider this to be an operation of war except in fog, due to air attacks enemy can bring to bear. I have therefore cancelled the operation until fog can be forecast and adequate force of destroyers are available. I require at least 24 more destroyers to carry out all operations projected. (C-in-C H.F., 2009/17).
Your 0023 (this was cancelled by 0514/18). No doubt that enemy A/S forces, chiefly trawlers, are concentrated along Swedish coast between Skaw and Oslo Fiord. Their activities are forcing our S/M's to Westward off enemy's line of communications. Although I appreciate risks run by destroyers operating in Skagerrak in daylight object is unlikely to be achieved unless carried into this area. Proposed arrangements (V.A.(S) 1027/17 to R.A.(D) H.F.).

Norwegian Warship Losses.

Tel. No.23, 17/4, for D.N.I. Following from Norwegian Naval Attache:-
AEGER sunk at Stavanger.
One B class submarine, one A class submarine, and OLAV TRYGGVASON captured.
Two small torpedo boats and two small guardships sunk or captured.
Last information, submarines, two B class off Narvik, three off west or south coast.
U.21 probably recaptured at Christiansand.
(A.N.A., Stockholm, 1609/17).

HOME COMMANDS.

Stavanger.

Operation Duck. (Contd.).

Report on operation Duck.

Operation Duck carried out from 0445 to 0605. 217 rounds fired. A/C communication unsuccessful and only few reports received. Firing between 18 and 23 thousand yards. Heavy pall of smoke as from oil observed after 2nd salvo. S/M torpedo missed astern soon after commencement. Firing discontinued on account of rising sun. Am supplying your 2300/16. (SUFFOLK 0720/17) Petrol dump hit and blazing. Slight very inaccurate A.A. fire from shore batteries. No enemy A/C observed. State of aerodrome impossible to observe owing to snow. SUFFOLK continually fired at Hudson over her. (Report of SUFFOLK's Walrus, Donibristle Rec. 1155/17).

Air attack on SUFFOLK. Damaged.

At 0826 SUFFOLK reported being bombed (211 WPOX 11. Persistently attacked, hit 1050, heavily damaged, speed reduced to 18 knots, ammunition nearly expended, 3 Hudsons will be sent at 1200, C-in-C., H.F. orders all Skuas to be sent and REPULSE, RENOWN, Adty. order CALCUTTA to proceed with despatch, SUFFOLK to make for Fair I., speed at noon 12 knots, fighter escort of 9 arrived 1420, JAVELIN, FURY TARTAR, BLYSKAVIC/ GROM to proceed. 33 attacks, 82 bombs, after engine rooms flooded, over 1000 tons water on board, steering by screw, feed water for 24 hours, tugs required, tug BUCCANEER sent 1752, ST. MELLONS sent 1822, casualties 17 (?K) one missing believed killed (?17) W. (SUFFOLK 0826/17, 0940/17, 0959/17, 1046/17, 1052/17, 1101/17, 1215/17, 1221/17, 1414/17, 1420/17, 2304/17, 2041/17). C-in-C., Rosyth 0946/17, 1140/17, RENOWN 2306/17, JANUS 1050/17, Adty. 1144/17, 1147/17, C-in-C., H.F. 1119/17, 1126/17 1201/17, 1247/17, FOCOS 1142/17, REPULSE 1730/17, 1752/17, 1822/17.
RAC(D) H.F. 1219/17, 1238/17, 1238/17.
Combat reports of a/c's sent to protect SUFFOLK 1 Dornier, 1 Heinkel shot down, 3 Heinkels seriously damaged (I.C.0425/40).
1 Heinkel set on fire, 2 damaged, 1 Dornier doubtful, 1 shot down landed without cracking (New Intell. 1852/17, 1928/17, SUFFOLK 1650/19 SUFFOLK arrived Scapa 0645/18 (F.O.C.O.S 0720/18) and was beached in Long Hope (R.A. Scapa 1543/18).

Attack on aerodrome.

By 12 Blenheims 1200 and 1216. 2 did not return. 50 a/c's seen flying approx, 2000 ft. below. Intersection of runway hit by bombs. (HQ. B.C. 1940/17). Several enemy A/C's on aerodrome blown up. (HQBC 2205/17). On night 17/18. See enemy intelligence 18/4.

HOME COMMANDS.

Aandalsnes (Contd.).

Operation Primrose.

Arms and ammunition. Re. arms and ammunition being sent to Aandalsnes due 17/18 April. Also 150 M.G.'s and 725,000 rounds available. Air transport impracticable. To which area should they be sent? (Adty. 1700/17 to B.R. with Norw. C-C). Tretten Railway station (B.R. 0229/18). Asking for one or two battalions to be rushed to Aandalsnes to hearten the Norwegians (Norw. Hq. 2309/17).

Bergern.

British Air activity. Search for enemy destroyers from Bjorne Fiord to Sogne Fiord, on completion of operation Duck (C-in-C., Rosyth 0252/17).

U-boat bombed. At 0719 attack by 2 bombs on U-boat observed 0715 on surface. One direct hit estimated. (Dornibristle 1125/17, 1130/17).
Skolteground still burning. Escort vessel BREMSE at jetty. 5000 tons ship referred to 1102/16 sunk alongside. (Hatston 1332/17).

Stavanger.

Operation Duck.

5 enemy destroyers. 5 German destroyers passed Stavanger 1960/16, course 360 25 knots. SUFFOLK with 4 destroyers will proceed up coast 0500/17 (R.A. (S) 0034/17 to TAKU.

Enemy cruiser. My 1534/16. Doubtful if shipm reported by A/C was cruiser. (D.C. 0036/17 to SUFFOLK).

Air escort. 1st escort delayed by weather (C-in-C., Rosyth 0410/17 to SUFFOLK). Expect, 1st escort 0615 (C-in-C., Rosyth 0444/17).
Result of attack on Stavanger by 12 Wellingtons night 16/17. 10 failed to locate the target owing to bad weather, 2 flew too low to attack (Hq. B.C. 0350/17).

A/C escort SUFFOLK. A/C escort to remain with SUFFOLK until 0845/17 after Duck (C-in-C., ROSYTH, 0252/17).

HOME COMMANDS.

Aandalsnes (Contd.).

Operation Primrose.

Time of arrival of Primrose. Your 1257/17 BLACK SWAN's force vide my 2220/16 is known as operation PRIMROSE. Inform Norwegian authorities this force will arrive at Aandalsnes about 2100/17. (D.C.N.S. 1519/17 to ASHANTI).

No enemy in town. Have investigated Aandalsnes all peace in town, no German vessels in harbour or landings have taken place. Finnish ammunition ship VELI RAGNAR from Havre to Narvik with 1000 tons is in harbour. Norwegian garrison have no H.A. guns emplaced. Intend remaining here until further orders. No trace of S/M in 60 miles of fjords searched (ASHANTI, 1650/17 to YORK, Adty).

A/S groups. 12 and 22. To proceed to Aandalsnes. On arrival report to Capt. Denny R.N for A/S patrols in Romsdals fiord (D.A./S.W. 2027/17).
One of principal objectives of military landing is to cut railway ~~xx~~ S. of Doure, 65 miles S.E. Aandalsnes. C.S.2 to provide extra demolition stores. (D.O.D.(H), 2234/17 to C.S.2).
On arrival of force Primrose re-embark your party and join C.S. 18 (D.O.D.(H) 2250/17 to ASHANTI).

Object of Primrose. Object is to get a force ashore at Aandalsnes and hold the place. Important to land R.M. A.A. Battery there. When we have informed Norwegians of your arrival you should prepare for landing a party at Aalesund and moutning 4" guns as originally arranged. (D.O.D.(H) 1507/17 to BLACK SWAN).

Operation Sickle.

You should arrive at dusk 18/4 and endeavour to land troops by dawn so that cruisers and A.A ships may withdrawn to Scapa at your discretion. Ships of Primrose force are to be under your command from time of your arrival until you leave the area. Desirable to land small force to hold Aalesund, vide my 1507/17. (D.O.D.(H) 1505/17 to C.S.2.).

YORK
EFFINGHAM
CALCUTTA

YORK, EFFINGHAM cover entrance to Romsdal Fiord until arrival of Force Sickle 18/4 when they should sail to join C-in-C., H.F. and F.O. Narvik respectively. CALCUTTA proceed to Scapa now. (D.C.N.S. 2249/17).

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Aandalsnes. (Contd.).

Expect to arrive 1830 (BLACK SWAN 1145/17).
No enemy destroyers in approach to Aandalsnes, a/c report (Y6RK 1040/17, 1210/17).

No enemy at Aandalsnes.

No opposition encountered or enemy vessels in harbour. No Germans in town, no knowledge of a S/M in neighbouring fjords. Am searching for CALCUTTA's S/M. Shall I land party on completion (ASHANTI 1257/17).
My 1031 have you investigated Aandalsnes. (YORK, 1305/17 to ASHANTI) (YORK 1031/17 said Aandalsnes to be investigated and results reported). Your 1305 and my 1257 am investigating (ASHANTI 1340/17 to YORK).
YORK, EFFINGHAM maintaining patrol to cover Stadtlander and Bredsuna, suggest GLASGOW, SHEFFIELD cover Buedybet and Saltsteins Ledeny. (YORK 1345/17 to GLASGOW).

Landing party.

In view of Adty. 1329/16 have ordered ASHANTI to land party about 30 and remain in approaches during daylight (YORK 1432/17 to Adty).
Your 1257/17. Land party about 30 to deal with any attempt to land from seaplanes. Party should also be able assist Primrose landing. Re-embark party daylight 18/4. (YORK 1445/17 to ASHANTI).
Inform Norwegian authorities British troops will land at Aandalsnes tonight (ADTY. 1418/17 to B.R. at Norw. HQ).

TAKU attack on ASHANTI

At 0345 TAKU unsuccessfully attacked with 4 torpedoes ASHANTI, not knowing latter was in neighbourhood, TAKU was suffaced by a depth charge; no serious damage (ASHANTI 0410/17, 0425/17, TAKU 0450/17).
Asking whether TAKU was informed at Adty. 2220/16.
Explanation of TAKU not knowing of presence of ASHANTI, EFFINGHAM, YORK (1st B.L. 1046/17, V.A.(S) 1131/17).
Aanalsnes on Romsdal Fjord suggested as ideal place to land troops. Lies to eastward of daily enemy patrols (18 group 0810/17). (This information comes from officers from RODNEY who flew to Sullom Voe an enemy arado seaplane captured early a.m/17 in Tingwold Fiord.

Re. A/C operation.

Enquiring whether frozen lakes 30 miles from Andalsnes would be suitable for operation of our a/c's and for how long. (Adty. 1447/17 to BLACK SWAN).

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Namsos (CONTD.).

Operation Maurice.

Orders for command of Allied Force. 1st stage. Lt. Gen. (local unpaid) Wiart command British forces now operating from Namsos and 1st echelon (3 battalion) Chasseurs Alfins under General de Division Andet. Hot black in independent command of all land forces involved in seaborne operation for capture Trondheim. 2nd stage. Hot black subordinate to Wiart; 3rd stage. Hot black withdraws. 4. Morgan's force remains independent under W.O. until further orders. W.O. will move 2nd echelon chasseurs (3 Battalions) but when situation permits Andet command whole French force under Wiart. When we are in full control area a Corps Commander should be appointed to command all British, French, Norwegian forces in Scandinavia (D.S.O. 2257/17).

H.A. Ammunition. is on board. My position etc. 039°PQ 2530 029° 22 kts. (MOHAWK, 0400/18).

ZULU Asking is she can be sent to Namsos after fuelling (F.O., Narvik, 2035/17). Regret she cannot be spared (F.O.C.B.C.S. 2345/17).

Trondheim.

Enemy forces. 2000 reported at Trondheim and 15 planes already at Vernes aerodrome 22 miles E. Trondheim (Aalesund 0320/17).

SCHARNHORST 11 German ships. B2. SCHARNHORST ashore off Trondheim, stern under water. 11 large German vessels alongside quays. (AN.NA. Stockholm Rec. 1055/17).
Stated 11 German ships drawn up in such a way that if fired on the rounds will fall into the town. Stated large cruiser damaged at entrance to Trondheim Fjord is SCHARNHORST, no doubt on these point, informant photographed her, stem partly under water. (M.A. Stockholm 1412/17 to W.O.).

Aalesund.

REINA RAGNAR Finnish, reported alongside at Aalesund with 1000 tons of S.A.A. Norwegian authorities are aware of this and wish to secure its cargo. Small party of Germans is reported at Stordalen 62°23'N, 7°1'E (D.O.D.(H) 0013/17 to CALCUTTA).

Operation Primrose.

A/S air patrol. Asked for in outer approaches to Namsen Fiord until arrival of envoy tonight (4th D.F. 1001/17 to GLASGOW).

War Diary.

17.4.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik (Contd.).

Destroyers to patrol. Destroyers carry out A/S sweep in approaches and then patrol entrance to Namsen Fiord as soon as troops landed (GLASGOW 0039/17 to Capt. (D.S. 4).

GLASGOW SHEFFIELD. Proceeding towards Aalasund area in case required (GLASGOW 0455/17).

Operation Maurice.

Air Menace. Difficulties of A/S patrol and operations of other ships in Namsos area difficult owing to constant air observation. Consider H.M. ships should only go there when necessary to land troops or protect transports (GLASGOW 0944/17 to C.S.18).

CHROBRY Transport arrives dusk to-day. Carry out sweep in approaches and escort her in (GLASGOW 1211/17 to INDIAN STAR)

A/S Air Patrol. Your 1001. Improbable a/c's will be available (GLASGOW 1358/17 to Capt. (D) 4).

Namsen Fiord. Your 1359. Cannot arrive before 2130 (SHEFFIELD to C.S.18, 1511/17).

Arrival of transports. Adty. 1311/17. Two French transports E.L. D,H,E, A,I,R, class arrive off Namsen Fiord 2000/18 or next day. Remaining ships six hours later. D.4 in AFRIDI lead them in (C.S. 18 to Capt. D.4 1642/17).

Fuelling. Am relying on Skjce Fiord for refuelling destroyers and A.A. cruisers working in Namsos area (F.O.C. 18 C.S. 1805/17 to C-in-C., H.F.). Asking for SOMALI to return soon as possible with A.A. ammunition (F.O.C. (8 C.S., 1950/17). Pilot states Germans holding Trondheim with 2000 Austrian and Bavarian Alpine troops. No artillery Aanalesnes, Molde, Aalesund still in Norwegian hands. Molde has been bombed and Aandalesnes in closely watched owing to important railhead (A.C.O.S. 2009/17).

Disembarkation from CHROBRY has begun (Capt. (D)4 2145/17, to F.O.C. 18 C.S.).

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (Contd.).

Search for 6 enemy destroyers YORK ASHANTI JUPITER	If enemy destroyers have not been reported YORK will pay off WALRUS on arrival about 0700 to search approach to Aandalsnes. If air reports negative ASHANTI, JUPITER proceed to Aandalsnes to report whether Germans there and hunt S/M sighted in Romsdals Fjord by CALCUTTA 2240/16. YORK will join Stadlandet patrol while WALRUS searches to southward (YORK 0545/17).
GLASGOW SHEFFIELD	GLASGOW, SHEFFIELD proceeding towards 62°45'N 6°0'E high speed can arrive 1400. How can I best assist your plan? (GLASGOW 1150/17 to YORK). C-in-C., ROSYTH's 1448 and 1632. If destroyers had been steering as reported YORK would have sighted them. Have swept to northward from Stadlander to 62°45' and seen no sign of enemy. Visibility poor. Am called to cover entrance to Noguid Fjord (YORK 1801/17) (C-in-C., Rosyth 1448 was circulated as from Doniboistle).
Norwegian Units.	Fishery protection vessel NORDKAPP directed to join escort to naval forces at Skjel Fiord. (F.O. 18 C.S. 0458/17).

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik. (Contd.).

Part 2. 5. Force to be used, cruisers and destroyers. WARSPITE should not be exposed to risk of S/M attack for lesser object than capture of Narvik. Suggest AURORA and 8 destroyers. (F.O.C., B.C.S. 1235/17 to F.O. Narvik).

Air Reconnaissance. By FURIOUS proposed to locate and harass German troops by 20lb bombs (F.O.C., I.C.S. 1701/17 to F.O. Narvik).

Situation. 1000/17. Little change. Indications determined enemy resistance may be reinforced by parachutists and supplied by sea and land planes. (D. of P., 1729/17). (Gives situation ashore everywhere). Your 0057/10. The cruisers and contru torpilleurs would be most useful. If operations against Narvik prolonged as appears likely a considerable force will have to be maintained in area. (C-in-C., H.F. 1836/17).

M.I.C's CYCLOPS Admty 2206/12 EMPIRE ABILITY will not now proceed Narvik as C.I.C's are required for another service. 2 M.I.C's are embarked in CYCLOPS which sailed from Scapa for Narvik area a.m. to-day. (D. of P. 2000/17).

A/S Force.

Namsos.

Operation MAURICE (Henry is finished.) (Gen. de Wiart) C.S. 18's 1747/16 (INDIAN STAR to operate under orders of GLASGOW). Proceed to Namsos and organise sweep and buoy a safe channel in the approaches Jiord. Contact military authorities on arrival. Carry out a thorough A/S search on your way into harbour to-day. (GLASGOW to INDIAN STAR 0657/17).

Naval Landing party. Landing party were reembarked in GLASGOW and SHEFFIELD at 0400 (Capt. D.4 0800/17 to F.O.C. 18 C.S.).

A/S Patrol. Adty. 1438/16. (Personal) Request A/S patrol in outer approaches to Namsen Fiord until arrival of convoy tonight (4th D.F. 1001/17 to GLASGOW).

Chassuers Alfins needed. Chasseurs Alpins absolutely essential to success-successful operations. They have light tanks and artillery which I should like but could do without, unloading will be difficult, no facilities, time also limited owing to airactivities. (Capt. D.4 0004/17, Gen. Wiart to W.D.).

War Diary,

17.4.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik (Lord Cork and Gen. Mackesey).

Convoy NP.1. sailed from Vaags fiord 0330/17, escort VOLUNTEER, WITHERINGTON, AMAZON, SOUTHAMPTON as far as 69°40'N, 10°E then return to Vaagsfiord (F.O. Narvik 0401/17).

Landing not feasible. I do not consider a landing at Narvik is feasible under present conditions nor is bombardment by ships guns likely to provide a solution. His plans. (HQ. Avon force to W.O. 1110/17, Rec. 0046/18).

Chasseurs Alfins. Re. Chasseurs Alfins (Adty and W.O. joint 2229/12) All my plans were based on arrival of t these troops. Without them I am definitely inferior to enemy. Norwegian troops almost entirely untrained. What additional troops may I expect and when? (HQ Aronforce to W.O 2105/17. Rec. 0030/18).

Situation. Your 2329/10. Capt. D.8 in FAULKNOR with ZULU operating off Narvik as F.O. Narvik's 0540/15. BEDOUIN, HERO, GRENADE, detached as your. 1721/1(PUNJABI damage temporarily repaired carrying out A/S patrol off Skjel Fjord. (PENELOPE 1040/17) to F.O.B.C.S.).

Enemy dump destroyed. Snipers at enemy destroyer ammunition and stores beached one mile W. of Herjangen killed one A.B. Ships opened fire, killed several enemy. Returned at midnight and destroyed by gunfire dump ammunition and petrol landed by German large destroyers. (Capt. D.8 1055/17 to Adty, C-in-C., H.F., R.A.(D) Main Fleet D.F.). All fuel and supply ships on Norwegian coast to be under operational control of C-in-C., H.F. for present French forces are dependent on our supplies (4th S.L. 1211/17 to C-ih-C.,H.F.). Your 1816/16.

Operations against Narvik. Opposition to be expected from S/M's. Air attac shore guns and machine guns. No evidence yet of larger guns. Objects suggested (a) Cut lines of communication between Narvik and Bjevik which essential to enemy for Gootangen and Froze Lake aerodrome. (b) Land troops at Bogue. (c) Destroy all merchant ships in Narvik harbour. These even left afloat 13/4 in belief Narvik harbour could be occupied almost immediately. Proposed course of action. (F.O.C., B.C.S. 1215/17 to F.O., Narvik).

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

French destroyers.	Departure from Cherbourg for Rosyth (D.C.D.(H), 1236/17, 2124/17.
EMILE BERTIN	My 1829/16. Adm. Daclan placed EMILE BERTIN at your disposal should you wish to reinforce 8th Division French destroyers in any operation. (B.N.L.O., Paris, 1758/17).
French Convoy.	F.S.1, four M.V.'s escorted by CYCLONE and MISTRAL (C-in-C., W.A., 1644/17).
French	Re. offer of French cruisers and contre torpilleurs: most useful. Probably Narvik operations will keep considerable force in area long time. Re. RENOWN and her replacement by French battle cruisers. (C-in-C., H.F. 1836/17).
S/M's.	No British S/M will in future be operating north of Bergen. (R.A.(D) H.F. 1254/17).
GLORIOUS	To be escorted to Clyde 18/4. (C-in-C., W.A., 0104/17).
ARK ROYAL	To fuel and store with utmost despatch. (D.C.D.(H), 2155/17).
Destroyers.	Request you sail 5 to join V.A. Dover. (D.A.S.W. to C-in-C., W.A., 0214/17). Request you sail 9 to join R.A.D. at Scapa. (D.A.S.W. to V.A. Dover 0213/17). A/S striking force of 9 destroyers under Capt. (D) 9 to operate against the U-boats in Admty. 0018/17. (D.A.S.W. to R.A.D., H.F. 0210/17). (see S/M's reported).
A/S Groups. for Aandalsnes.	A/S groups 12 and 22 to be sailed tomorrow for Lerwick and onward to Aandalsnes as ordered by C-in-C., Rosyth. On arrival to report to Capt. Denny for A/S patrol in Romsdals Fiord. (D.A.S.W. 2027/17).
Home Fleet.	C-in-C., in RODNEY with RENOWN and 6 destroyers expects to arrive Scapa a.m./18. VALIANT and 3 destroyers, also proceeding to Scapa, are 200 miles astern of him.
EFFINGHAM CALCUTTA off Stadtlander.	Search for enemy destroyers. (See 16/4). Take CALCUTTA under your orders and patrol off Stadtlander to intercept enemy destroyers. (YORK 0300/17 to EFFINGHAM, CALCUTTA).

War Diary.

17.4.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Situation Report. (Contd.).

Stavanger.

SUFFOLK fired 217 rounds at Stavanger aerodrome between 0445 and 0605/17. Observation of fire was difficult as a/c communication broke down. During the action, a torpedo was seen to miss astern. After withdrawing at sunrise SUFFOLK and 5 destroyers proceeded to sweep northward to intercept 5 enemy destroyers seen passing Stavanger at 1900/16. Shortly after, SUFFOLK was heavily and persistently bombed by a/c's, sustained one hit and several near misses, and with difficulty made Scapa on 18/4. During attacks, F.A.A a/c's brought down 1 Heinkel, 1 Dornier and damaged 3 Heinkels. 12 bomber a/c's raided Stavanger late 17/4. 2 failed to return.

Enemy Air Raids.

From 2000/17 onwards 30X raids were carried out on the East and S.E. coasts of the U.K.. Many of these are believed to have been for minelaying, and the Downs were closed as a precaution.

War Diary.

17.4.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Situation Report.

Main Fleet.

C-in-C., in RODNEY with ESK, IVANHOE, ICARUS and GREYHOUND arrived Scapa 1840/17.
VALIANT with FEARLESS, BRAZEN and GRIFFIN are due early 18/4.

Tromso Kirkenes area.

C.S.I in DEVONSHIRE with BERWICK and one destroyer arrived at Tromso from Kirkenes with a transport carrying a battalion of Norwegian troops.
C.S.I reports there are 9000 tons oil fuel in shore stocks at Tromso. Destroyers can oil alongside and Adty. oilers top up.

Narvik area.

WARSPITE and 3 destroyers patrolling 60 miles W. of entrance to Vest Fjord.
Capt. D.8 in FAULKNOR destroyed an ammunition and petrol dump landed by German destroyers one mile west of Herjaugen at midnight 16/4.
Convoy NP.1 (MONARCH OF BERMUDA, BATORY R. DEL PACIFICO and 3 destroyers left Vaagsfiord 0330/17 to return to U.K.

Namsos area.

Operation Henry CHROBRY with the final battalion of Phillips' Brigade arrived Namsos after dark; disembarkation began at 2145 and was completed 0431/18.
MOHAWK is on her way to Namsos with H.A. ammunition to replenish the Tribal destroyers.
Operation Marines. Convoy FP.1 (two French transports) is due at Namsos at 1800/18 with French escort and REPULSE.

Aalesund area.

ASHANTI investigated Aandalsnes, made contact with the Norwegian authorities and landed a small party to prevent possible German forces arriving in seaplanes from landing. There were no signs of enemy forces in the town or in Romsdal Fjord. Operation Primrose. BLACK SWAN, AUCKLAND, BITTERN and FLAMINGO arrived at Andalsnes at dusk and disembarked landing parties with all despatch to hold the place pending the arrival of Force Sickle (GALATEA, ARETHUSE, CARLISLE, CURACOA and 2 destroyers) due at dusk 18/4.
Sunderland A/C reported 2 enemy destroyers off Christiansund North at 1830/17.
At 0345 TAKU unsuccessfully fire 4 torpedoes at ASHANTI, not knowning latter was in neighbourhood, TAKU was d.c.'d, no damage.

War Diary.

18.4.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships attacked.

SEAL mined — Possibly missed by torpedo 57°10'N 2°20'E. (I.C.0425/40).

Submarines Reported.

1340 — By aircraft in LTHI 1245 co.090° (Aircraft 269 Squadron 1340/18) (see Attacks) (R.A.(S) 1854/18)

0940 — By aircraft 57°18'N.5°36'E. Possibly SWORDFISH (I.C.0425/40).

0100 — Sighted on surface by s.s. FIRTH FISHER, 3 in N.W. mag.from Point of Ayr, Isle of Man. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1231/18, 1258/18 A.C.W.A. 1311/18) Consider report very reliable (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1231/19).

2110 — Periscope reported by unknown ship, 51°19'N, 03°41'W. RHODORA and LORD WAKEFIELD sent to hunt (C.in C. W.A. 2110/18, 2329/18).

1030 — M/S trawler SATA sighted periscope, conning tower, 230° Nelson Buoy 5½ miles, course 030° (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1715/18, 1754/18 VAN QUISHER searching (VANQUISHER 1858/18) (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2300/18 says 1050/18) 53°39'N.3°19'W. (I.C.0425/40).

2244 — D.F. unknown enemy unit, probably U-boat, reliable fix. (D.C.2316/18).

1900 — 51°19'N. 03°41'W. unreliable fix. MONTROSE to attack. (A.C.W.A. 2110/18) (Burnham on Sea Radio 1900/18).

Submarines Attacked.

1340 — By aircraft in LTHI 1245. (Aircraft 269 Squadron 1340, 1343/18). No hits. (Donibristle 1550/18).

2000 — By VERSATILE 298° Bar Light Vessel 15° miles 53°40'N. 03°42½'W. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0027/19, 0058/19) (VERSATILE 2000/18).

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

Reporting — Impossible at present to report movements of German steamers entry into docks prohibited. No neutral vessels allowed to enter or leave without permission of Naval authorities. Would appear that enemy merchant vessel met with in Kattegat is enemy. No movements from here for several days (Gothenburg 1747/18).

South Atlantic.

WINDHUK) Both have Brazilian guards on board. Officers
) ex GRAF SPEE who arrived on board WINDHUK 17/4
MON SEIGNEUR) were objected to by depositer on behalf of Anglo Mexican and removed by Brazilian Police for return to Buenos Aires (A.N.A. Rio, 1159/13).

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

New Zealand.

STORVIKEN — Norwegian, arrived Ocean Island 17/4 and is being detained under armed guard. (S.O.(I) 2259Z/18).

America and West Indies.

Requisitioned Whalers. — Your 1600/3. Concur (Hd. of M. to C.in C. A.W.I. 2218/18.

EMERALD, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND. — Route. Expect to arrive North Channel and Bar Light Vessel 25/4. EMERALD to part company for Clyde (R.A.3.B.S. 1114/18).

T.C.3 — Re numbers, ships etc. (D.of S.T. 1739/18).

Norwegian Ships. — Admty. 0114/13. Request guidance as to policy to be adopted for diversion of Norwegian shipping on West Coast Central and South America where Kingston, Jamaica, is nearest Allied port. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1545/18). Admty.1932/15. List of Norwegian and Danish ships (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1701/18, 2203/18).

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

VITTORIO VENETO	Reported arrived Taranto from Trieste (B.2). Not considered ready for service in fleet. (N.A.Rome 1818/18).
Danube	14 boats of Danube Flotilla moved from Piessen to Linz, increased activity evident in Vienna military harbours. (A.N.A. Belgrade 2120/18).

China.

Danish ships.	Japan is already short of tonnage. Hope you will consider possibility of allowing Danish ships chartered to Japan to continue under charter although transferred to Allied flag. (Craigie (Tokyo) No.618 18/4).
Norwegian ships.	In view of predominant share of Norwegian shipping in exporting rice from Siam to all destinations it is important that Norwegian ships detained in neighbouring Allied ports be released quickly. (Crosby, Bankok No.114 to F.O. 18/4).
Patrol	S.O.(I) Esquimalt 2231/16. I intended to move KANIMBLA from Yangtse entrance approaches to Yokohama in near future where she would normally operate about 50 miles or more from coast. In view of possible repercussions in Japan when Danish and Norwegian ships are intercepted and diverted shortly before arrival or after sailing request confirmation this intended (C.in C.China 0426Z/18)
Japanese Warships.	Positions (C.in C. China 0428/18).
HARALDSVANG	Norwegian F.O.C. Singapore 0329Z/18. Suggesting ship proceed to Hong Kong in view of possible Japanese repercussions. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 0856Z/18 to C.in C. China).
Transfer of Ships.	Admty. 1415/18, transfer of ships from Japan to U.S.A. I agree (C.in C. China 1641Z/18).

East Indies.

Norwegian Ships.	Arrangements to sail them from Calcutta. Naval Officers in Charge of guards (F.O.C.R.I.N. Bombay 1143Z/18, C.in C. E.I. 1238Z/18).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Forces — Convoys and Patrols, positions 1300/18 (D.C. 0302/18)
" " " positions 1300/19 (D.C. 2309/18).

French convoys — Considered desirable that ships bound for French Atlantic ports south of Brest should be sailed in French convoys in preference to HG and HGF wherever this will not cause delay. Request you will arrange accordingly. (D.T.D. 1743/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Ocean convoys — D.C. 1937/18.

South Atlantic

HERMES — Adty. 1605/17. State of training of pilots in HERMES (C-in-C S.A. 0853/18).

ESPERANCE BAY
RANPURA
COMORIN
JERUIS BAY — Being transferred from S.A. Station to America and West Indies within next 7 days, first 2 to Halifax, last 2 to Bermuda (C-in-C S.A. 1233/18, 1005/18).

Norwegian ships. — Owners will be faced with heavy claims if Norwegian ships arriving at S. American E. coast en route for Rio de la Plata especially from U.S.A. are diverted to Allied ports, nearest of which is nearly 3000miles away. Norwegian Charge d'Affaires urges majority of these claims would be avoided if ships allowed to complete S. American voyage. Heavy loss of revenue to owners if U.S.-South American trade is abandoned and thus allowed to fall into hands of U.S. shipping interests. States everything will be done to submit Norwegian ships to supervision and control by H.M. ships and Naval Representatives and urges reconsideration before very important section of Norway's carrying trade is dislocated and abandoned. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1120/18).

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

FURIOUS	H.P. blading damaged 18/4 presumably by near miss of bomb. Maximum speed now 25 knots. 10 swordfish remaining. (F.O.C. I.C.S. 2312/18 to C-in-C H.F.) Later reported max. speed 22 knots.
CHARLES BABIN	S.O.S. 2 miles N.W. of Tevennce (CH. BABIN. 1136/18) Distress cleared (Lands End Radio 1311/18)
BEVEZIERS	French s/m last seen 2000/15 49° 30'N, 24° 40'W Cdre. HX 33 reports northerly gale then blowing with heavy sea lasting until a.m./17 (ROCHESTER 1133/18).

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (continued)

Unidentified ship

a/c report, large unidentified ship steering 025° 20 knots JSND 1010 at 2210/17 (C-in-C Rosyth 0214/18)

Destroyer

An enemy destroyer in Haugesund (a/c 233 Squ. 0853/18).

One German destroyer and M.T.B.'s have operated to-day South of Bergen. They have taken neutral ships and are on way southward passed Larvik 0620/18 (Norwegian H.Q. 1000/18).

SCHARNHORST

A heavy ship has been reported in outer Trondheim Ford. To be investigated by air reconnaissance. (D.C. 1210/18 to C.S. 18).

German landing at Bornholm

From Norwegian N.A. information from Swedish Defence Dept. 17/4. German troops embarked in transports at Memel. 2000 - 3000 German troops landed at Bornholm, about 200 German fishing craft and large number of a/c's at Bornholm (N.A. Stockholm 1450/18 to D.N.I.).

French N.A. Rome reports from Italian source 12 German s/m's have been sunk in course of operations on Norwegian coast. (B.N.L.O. Paris 1734/18).

Great Belt Train Ferry
ODIN

Reported in Press to have been damaged by explosion 18/4, second train ferry to be thus damaged within 3 days.

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

GNEISENAU SCHARNHORST — Your 1836/17. No reliable information of damage. Almost certain both battle cruisers were at sea am/12 making their way into Skagerrak (D.N.I. 1912/18 to C-in-C H.F.)

3 destroyers — 3 enemy destroyers steaming full speed south passed Vatlestraumen South Bergen 1815 (Norway 1915/18 recd. Adty. 2355/18, KA(S) 0051/19 to s/m's on patrol).

Ships in Swedish ports — 18 total 50,000 tons in Gothenburg, 15 total 30,000 tons in other Swedish ports, negative Malmo. No information Malmo at which port German ships arrive and sail frequently (Gothenburg 1149/18).

Haro Island — A/C was subject to A/A fire 17/4 from Haro Island (62° 45'N, 6° 27'E) (D.D.I.C. 0931/18).

S/m. — See A/C attack on Trondheim.

4 cargo ships escorted by small craft German destroyers reported (?) located J(?)SGD 5000 steering S. at 0630 (R.A.(S) 1104/18 to s/m's on patrol.)

Gunboat — alongside central pier at Haugesund a.m./18 (D.D.I.C. 1701/18 to V.A.(S)).

2 transports torpedoed — By SEAWOLF see S/m's.

HIPPER — 0130 a/c report heavy cruiser possibly HIPPER class 55° 14'N, 11° 0'E (in the Great Belt) steering N. at 5 knots. (I.C. 0424/40)

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys (continued)

OA 132 — Cancelled (C-in-C W.A. 1043/18)

HGF 28 — Route (D.T.D. 1306/18).

British ships may proceed to Holland — My 1200/13 and 1952/13. British vessels may now be allowed to proceed to Dutch ports in Holland provided permit granted by local coasting and short sea control committee. (D.T.D. 1254/18 to AIG 47).

D.E.M.S. Equipment — When special operations involving use of merchant ships take place at short notice may be necessary to augment A/A and other defensive equipment. Flag Officers concerned may approve temporary additional equipment without further reference to Adty. when time does not admit of normal action (D.T.D. 1154/18)

Miscellaneous

Naval light A/A battery — for service ashore in Norway. Adty. 1647 and 2256/17. The 14 guns and equipment will be despatched to-day. (C-in-C Portsmouth 1327/18) Adty. 2256/17. Batteries A and B. will be ready to embark by times required in para. (F) (C-in-C Portsmouth 1107/18)

Oerlikon Guns — 2 to embark in each of the 3 transports of FP 2 (D. of P., 2340/18).

WEATHER

	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	Light, variable	Good except for haze near coasts.
Horns Reef	Light, variable	Low, improving
Channel	East, moderate	Good, low in showers.
W. Approaches	East-North-East	Good, deteriorating in rain.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Enemy mining suspected near Cork Lt. V. (Capt(S) 10 0227/18 to LA SIBYLLE).

Unexplained explosions reported 1845 and 1926. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1957/18)

Magnetic mines 3 magnetic mines were exploded off Ramsgate very shortly after laying. Enemy a/c's laid magnetic mines 18/4 between Yarmouth and the Downs. (D.C.N.S. 228).

A/C mining. During the night there were reports of unidentified aircraft at several points off East Coast, probably engaged minelaying. (H.Q.C.C. 1738/18).

British mine-laying in German waters During the current week NARWHAL laid 50 mines in the Kattegat. A further 63 have been laid in the western German estuaries and Danish eastern waters. (C.C.S.(40) 301).

Shipping

Convoys

Positions (D.C. 1937/18)

Forecast of F.S. and F.N. sailings (C-in-C Rosyth 1738/18)

OA 130G additions to 1548/16. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1617/18)

FS 48 (N.C.S.O. Humber 1231/18)

HG 26 Details for escort (C-in-C W.A. 0907/18)

OB 133 GF Rendezvous. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1702/18) Route (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1825/18).

OB 132 Details (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1936/18) Sailed (N.C.S.O. Mersey 2115/18).

HX 36 Sailing telegram (C.O.A.C. 1216/18, 1217/18) Escort (S.O.I. Halifax 1550/18).

HGF 27 Left Gibraltar with French escort (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 2032/18) Route (F.O.C.N.A. 1800/18).

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

A/c's in carriers

Asking, as result of last 19 days experience that each Aircraft Carrier working in Northern Waters should have only one T.S.R. Squadron and remainder Skuas. T.S.R. pilots to be trained for their new duties as quickly as possible (C-in-C H.F. 1420/18).

Enemy air activity

3 drifters — being bombed 110° Buchan Ness 5 miles (ST. SUNNIVA 0912/18).

Reports of A/C's.

YORK 0928/18, made correct reply to challenge apparently Dornier. (YORK 0956/18). A/C 22 Squ. 0958/18, CALCUTTA shadowed (1240/18) EFFINGHAM 1334/18, BASILISK 1355/18, YORK shadowed (1410/18) EFFINGHAM 1421/18, C-in-C Nore 1559/18, EFFINGHAM 1604/18, 1753/18, 1858/18

BIACK SWAN — 2 bombs dropped, 2 a/c's no hits. (BLACK SWAN 1500/18, 1453/18) Second attack 1 a/c, 1 bomb, no hits (BLACK SWAN 1520/18).

CAIRO — 1 Heinkel dropped 2 bombs. No damage. DRXT 4515/ (CAIRO 1623/15, 1651/15).

FURIOUS — See Casualties and Defects.

ARK ROYAL
GLORIOUS — V.A.(A)'s 1137/18 Propose ARK ROYAL and GLORIOUS sail for Scapa on Sunday 21st to join your flag. 801 and 803 Sqdns. when embarked to be complete with stores and maintenance personnel. Approved for U.A.(A) to transfer flag to ARK ROYAL. (5 S.L. 1939/18 to C-in-C H.F.) GLORIOUS arrived with V.A.(A) (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1939/18)

Operations against German sea communications — During the night 17/18. 23 Hampdens and 7 Beauforts were employed (C.O.S.(40) 301)

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

British S/M's

SEAWOLF's report

Large motor yacht escorted by 3 destroyers course 350° JSGD 1600 0950 18/4. Attacked southbound convoy escorted by trawler JSGD 032 0103 18/4 2 transports torpedoed A/S activity general (SEAWOLF 1801/18)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Faeroes

Army to relieve R.M. Intend to relieve your force by Army. Object is to hold Cable Station, Thorshavn and Skasle Fjord against possible enemy landing not exceeding one Brigade. Estimated one battalion will suffice for defence. (D.C.N.S. 0025/18 to O.C. R.M. Faroes).

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Stavanger

Attack on aerodrome

Night 17/18 by 11 Wellingtons. Target not located 2245/17 58° 20'N, 6° 10'E convoy of 4 ships believed to be destroyers steaming north line astern close to shore (H.Q. B.C. 0320/18) 58° 10'N, 5° 10'E. 2210 vessel like aircraft-carrier steaming 25° 20 knots unaccompanied (H.Q. B.C. 0220/18) Concrete runway hit. 1 Wellington missing. (C.C.S.(40) 301).

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Bergen

50-60 M.V's in Bergen but no warships. No a/c at seaplane base, some A/A fire (Donibristle Rec. 0013/19).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aandalsnes

Operation Primrose (continued)

a/c attacks on BLACK SWAN — See Air.

Aandalsnes and Molde

Aandalsnes landing — Morgan's Brigade disembarkation commenced 2100. GALATEA, CARLISLE, ARROW, ACHERON, H.Q. and 550 men at Aandalsnes.
ARETHUSA, CURACOA, 450 men at Molde (C.S.2, 2155/18).

Your 2234/17. (Military landing at Aandalsnes) Landing place Molde. Time as early as convenient. (F.O.C. 2C.S. 2205/18 to Adty.)

Molde landing — Disembarkation completed (CURACOA 2315/18 to F.O.C. 2C.S.)

Capt. Denny appointed S.N.O. Molde.
All possible local craft from Aalesund, Molde and Kristiansund are to be concentrated at Molde and Kristiansund as soon as possible; required for service in Norwegian waters.

Vinte landing — A force of 200 Marines is to be prepared for a landing at Vinte 63° 12'N, 9° 0'E. For this landing which may be opposed, one sloop and local craft will be used. The force is to be ready at Molde 22/4. Decision re. it will be given within 24 hours. (D.O.D.(H) 2319/18 to C.S.2 for BLACK SWAN).

Aandalsnes

Operation Sickle

Landing from cruisers — Adty. 1633/16. Expect to arrive Buddybet 1930 and proceeding to Molde. ARROW, ACHERON will land one company at Aandalsnes. Arrangements for cruisers unloading (S.C.2. 0525/18 to BLACK SWAN) Can GALATEA berth alongside at Aandalsnes? (F.O.C. 2B.S. 1012/18 to BLACK SWAN).

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aandalsnes

Operation Primrose (Capt. Denny)
(Gen. Morgan)

Primrose is landing

Your 1507/17. Reported 20-30 or 60 enemy a/c's fly over Aalesund very low every morning. W/T station has been bombed and put out of action. Primrose is being landed with all despatch. (BLACK SWAN 0100/18 to Adty.)

Adty. 1505/17. Consider it possible for CARLISLE and CURACOA and 2 destroyers to proceed direct to Aandalsnes to unload, one of each at a time.

Primrose should be landed all clear by time Sickle arrives (BLACK SWAN 0430/18).

(corrupt) D100. All personnel Aandalsnes now ashore. Anticipate A/A guns will be mounted by 0400/20. Am sailing AUCKLAND, BITTERN forthwith Aalesund to land 4 inch and personnel for them. Expected time of arrival 1430/18. Urgently required 10,000 rounds H.E. 2 pdr. pompom at Aandalsnes and I.S.L. and generator at Aalesund (BLACK SWAN 1000/18 to Adty.)

Your 0525/18. Am remaining at Aandalsnes to cover landing party until A/A guns are ready or A/A cruiser arrives. AUCKLAND ordered to remain at Aalesund to cover party there and act as W/T link. (BLACK SWAN 1200/18).

Aalesund W/T station and power plant at Tafjord need A/A protection. (This is W/T station for communication abroad) (BLACK SWAN 1245/18 to Adty.)

My 1505/17. Ships other than 2 sloops mentioned in para. 4 of my 1347/14 are to return to Rosyth as soon as possible (D.C.N.S. 1400/18 to C.S.2)

Re. operating a/c's from frozen lakes (Squ. Ldr. Whitney - Straight 1438/18, 1935/18).

Audet's force (F.P. One)

3 battalions, 1 battery. Force is not specially organised for independent action. (D.C. 1933/18).

Aalesund party

Completed landing of 4 inch guns and personnel at Aalesund 1900 (AUCKLAND 2015/18 to BLACK SWAN).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Trondheim

Operation Hammer (continued)

SCHARNHORST — Heavy ship reported in Trondheim Fiord to be investigated by air reconnaissance (D.C. 1210/18 to C.S.18).

Situation ashore — Germans holding Trondheim with 2000 Austrian and Bavarian Alpine troops. No artillery. Seaplanes operating from frozen lake 5 miles S.E. Trondheim. Aandalsnes, Molde, Aalesund still in Norwegian hands. Molde has been bombed and Aandalsnes is closely watched owing to important railheads. (Information from pilot) (F.O.C.C.S. 1142/18).

A/c attack night 17/18 — Owing to bad weather no a/c (6 went) able to make observations. All a/c's except one jettisoned bombs. One s/m observed 58° 45'N, 1° 0'W 2010 heading North (H.Q.B.C. 0700/18)

No warships 5 M.V's in Trondheim, no a/c's at seaplane base, 3 M.V.'s 5 miles to S.W. 1440-1630 (a/c report) (Donibristle Rec. 0013/19)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Trondheim

Operation Hammer

Situation — SHEFFIELD reports 7 seaplanes on Fiord no other air activity. Aerodrome camouflaged, difficult to distinguish. No signs of activity on aerodrome or a/c's. (C.S.18 1010/18 to Adty.)

FURIOUS to attack — Request you will consider using FURIOUS to attack Trondheim aerodrome continuously next week so as to prevent German reinforcements arriving by air (D.O.D.(H) 1305/18 to C-in-C H.F.)

Situation ashore — D. of P. 1556/18 to C.S.2, D.4.

R.M. Howitzers — 2 - 3.7" howitzers earmarked for GUARDIAN are not to be embarked in GUARDIAN. 7 - 3.7" howitzers are to be got ready for immediate service and manned by R.M. Battery will embark 20/4 at Clyde or Rosyth (A.G.R.M. 1558/18 to C-in-C Rosyth).

IVANHOE
ICARUS
IMPULSIVE — are at your disposal for Operation Hammer, either with or without mines (1st S.L. 1639/18 to C-in-C H.F.)

Raid on enemy reinforcements — proposed see D.O.D.(H) 1713/18 to C-in-C H.F. in Operations (General).

In order to stop supply ships reaching enemy in Trondheim ASHANTI and MOHAWK are to be sent immediately to establish patrol to north-westward of Cud 62° 55'N, 6° 55'E. There are no British mines in area declared N.W. Husted 62° 57' 30"N, 7° 6'E but enemy ships may assume mines have been laid there. Destroyers may at discretion withdraw if subjected to heavy air attack (C-in-C H.F. 0046/19 to F.O.C. 18 C.S. Capt. D4).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Namsos

Operation Maurice (continued)

Jetty	Small ships only to be sent to Namsos as jetty is very frail and there are no cranes or tugs (C.S.18. 1827/18 to Adty.).
a/c attack on Varnes aerodrome	See 19/4.

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Namsos

Operations Maurice (Gen. de Wiart)

(C.S.18, D6, GLASGOW, SOUTHAMPTON, WX Convoy, MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, CURLEW, ARETHUSA, EMILE BERTIN, 2 transports)

Disembarkation of Phillips' 3rd Battalion.

Troops disembarked and stores unloaded from CHROBRY. Am sailing her for Scapa screened by Tritals until noon after which MATABELE will escort. Cdre. requests a second destroyer when available (Capt. D4, 0431/18 to C.S.18. 0807/18 to Capt. D4).

ASHANTI

leaving Novid Fiord 61° 42'N, 6° 20'E 0530/18 to join you Namsos area (F.O.C. 18C.S. 0615/18 to Capt. D4).

French transports arrive 2000/19

First 2 will not arrive Namsen Fiord before 2000/19 (C.S.18, 0655/18 to Capt. D4)

Your first 2 transports will enter Namsen Fiord 1945/19. Rendezvous. (C.S.18, 0831/18 to EMILE BERTIN).

Weather is improving. Carry on if conditions are suitable with you. (18th C.S. 0850/18 to ARDENT).

Your 1847 (should be 1842)/17 to F.O. Narvik. Address requests for reinforcements to me. We are working on a very small margin (C-in-C H.F. 0937/18 to C.S.18).

Capt. D4. 0431/18 and my 0807/18. In view of delay of French convoy, CHROBRY and escort are returning to Namsos tonight to complete unloading of stores. MATABELE proceeding to Skjel Fiord to refuel (C.S.18, 1147/18) Note. a small amount of stores had been left in CHROBRY when she sailed after disembarking Phillips 3rd Battalion.

Phillips Brigade landing completed

Gen. Wiart to W.O. Completed landing Phillips Brigade night 17/18 but could not unload all stores. Have just heard French do not come until 19/4. Navy has done splendidly (Capt. D4, 1113/18 to Adty.).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik (continued)

Reported to be small aerodrome at Bardufoss approx. 68° 46'N, 18° 45'E from which Gladiators have been operated (C-in-C H.F. 1947/18 to F.O. Narvik).

Tromso is within range of German a/c's. Do not relax A/A precautions (D.D.I.C. 2045/18 to F.O. Narvik etc.).

FRANCONIA To go to Narvik (F.O. 18C.S. 2150/18 to REPULSE).

Oiler Your 1740/18 WARPINDARI is at Tromso proceeding to Skjel Fiord arriving about 21/4 with 4,000 tons. INVERARDER should also arrive Skjel Fiord 21/4. No fuel available Skjel Fiord until one of these oilers arrives (C-in-C H.F. 2203/18).

Air attack at 1350/18 by one Heinkel on FURIOUS operating a/c's in Grotiundot 69° 50'N, 19° 38'E. (See also Casualties and Defects) (F.O.C.I.C.S. 2347/18 to C-in-C H.F.).

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik

Troops to land at Bergen

You are to proceed with troops to entrance of Bergen 68° 30'N 17°E arriving 1500/19. 15 fishing vessels under Comdr. Hopkinson will ferry your troops to shore. Then proceed to Sjelfiord and take such fuel as can be spared. PROTECTOR will accompany you to West Fiord (F.O. Narvik 1507/18 to VINDICTIVE)

C-in-C H.F. 1611/18. If an assault is contemplated another battleship will be sent to you (D.O.D.(H) /18 to F.O. Narvik)

Asking for indicator net to be laid at entrance to Skjel Fiord (D. of L.D. 1688/18 to F.O. Narvik).

Information

Am continuing Otofiord Patrol with ENCOUNTER Planes seen to drop over 12 parachutes near Bjgrkvik 68° 33'N, 17° 33'E 1500/18, ammunition or troops. 120 of German destroyers' crew captured by HARDY's crew now under charge of unarmed Norwegian police on point about 68° 23'N, 16° (?54')E. (Capt. D8 1637/18 to F.O. Narvik).

Re. Capt. D8 2314/17, watch on Ofot Fiord must not be relaxed (1st S.L. 1645/18 to F.O. Narvik)

Fuel

BRITISH LADY fuel expended. Another oiler urgently required. (PENELOPE 1740/18 to C-in-C H.F.)

Germans at Narvik

Your 1201/16 para. 8. Presence of Germans at Narvik is causing Swedish Govt. anxiety. They fear if Germans cross frontier we may follow and violate Swedish neutrality. If we do not follow Sweden must intern them and further strain relations with Germany. (D.N.I. 1848/18 to F.O. Narvik).

Indicator nets

Your 1628/18. PROTECTOR is on way to do so now. (F.O. Narvik 1935/18 to Adty.)

SOUTHAMPTON

Request SOUTHAMPTON may be sailed for Scapa at earliest possible date (C-in-C H.F. 1941/18 to F.O. Narvik).

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

CALCUTTA — Report of operations 16/17/4/40. Admiralty message received instructing YORK, EFFINGHAM, CALCUTTA, ASHANTI to stop enemy destroyers from entering and landing troops at Aandasnes. Rendezvous made with EFFINGHAM at 0424/17/40 and with YORK 0652/17/40.

RAKE

Raid on enemy reinforcements proposed. — In view of considerable number of reports of shipping now passing along coast between Eggersund and Mandal which may be reinforcements for Bergen and Trondheim request you will consider raid by d-stroyers in this area during night 19/20, subject to their not interfering with operation Hammer. French contre-torpilleurs will carry out similar raid on night 22/23. (D.O.D.(H) 1713/18 to C-in-C H.F.)

I have received no reports of shipping passing along this coast from any source. S/m's have also been maintained for several days off Egersund and Lister with negative results. (V.A.S. 0046/19)

War Diary

18. 4. 40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

C. in C.'s Proposals for employment of Naval Forces on Coast of Norway.

(a) Maintain close blockade of Narvik and support military forces there.

(b) Support Military forces in Namsos and Aandalsnes area.

(c) Operate in inner (?) routes against supplies for enemy in Trondheim -Bergen area vide his 2250/15.

(d) Submarines to operate in Skagerrak and off S.W. Norway against enemy lines of communication.

(e) Sweep by surface forces into Skagerrak to relieve pressure of enemy ~~xixxxxx~~ a/s measures, when weather suitable vide his 2009/17.

(f) Kattegat to be intensively mined up to limit of Swedish territorial waters both by magnetic and contact mines starting from S. and working N.

(g) Continuous harassing of all enemy aerodromes in Norway except in Narvik area to be special task of R.A.F.

(C. in C. H.F. 1203/18).

War Diary

18. 4. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Provisional Convoy Arrangements for Norwegian Operations. Continued.

2. Operation Maurice. (Continued)

F. French Convoy FS Two of 3 store ships leaves Brest 18/4 for Clyde, 8 knots.

3. Operation Hammer.

A. Convoy TP one (SOBIESKI, DUCHESS OF ATHOLL from Clyde, ORION from Leith) expected to sail about 20/21 April.

B. Convoy TP two (ORONSAY, LANCASTRIA from Clyde) will probably sail with TP one.

C. Convoys TM one (DELIUS, HARMATTAN, DALLINGTON COURT and petrol ship RONAN) expected to sail from Clyde about 19/4 for Scapa in first instance.

D. Convoy DS one (J. HOLT, THISTLEFORS, PV 22 ARO, CISNEROS) will sail from Bristol Channel ports for Clyde 22/4).

4. Operation Sickle.

A. Convoy AP one consisting of transports SAINT MAGNUS and ST SUNNIVA will sail from Aberdeen 18/19 April and RV with CEDARBANK from Scapa and then proceed to Aandalsnes. (D.O.D.(H) 1345/18).

War Diary

18. 4. 40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

Enemy Air Activity

FURIOUS off Tromso sustained slight damage to her turbines from a near miss: Her speed is reduced to 22 knots.

At Aandalsnes BLACK SWAN was attacked twice, but was not hit. CAIRO was also bombed without result.

Fishing vessels were attacked off Buchan Ness.

The transport of German reinforcements by air appears to have been continuing.

Enemy aircraft laid magnetic mines between Yarmouth and the Downs; 3 magnetic mines were exploded off Ramsgate very shortly after laying.

Provisional Convoy Arrangements for Norwegian Operations.

1. Operation Rupert.

No further reinforcements will sail at present.

A. Convoy N.S.M. One with stores and M.T. for Narvik sailed from Scapa am/17.

B. FRANCONIA with M.T. drivers sailed with Convoy F.P. one and will be detached to Narvik.

2. Operation Maurice.

A. Convoy F.P. one of 4 French transports now on passage to Namsos area.

B. Convoy FPIA (VILLE D'ALGER) will probably sail from Scapa about 19/4.

C. BLACKHEATH with M.T. of Phillips' Brigade sailed from Scapa with NSM one and will be detached to Namsos area.

D. French Convoy FS one (AMIENOIS, CAP BLANC, SAUMUR) with M.T. and stores and oiler MEKONG arrives Clyde 19/4 and will probably sail from there for Namsos area as soon as possible, speed 8 knots.

E. French Convoy FP2 (FLANDRE, DJENNE, PRESIDENT DOUMER) leaves Brest 18/4 for Clyde, 14 knots. Destination uncertain.

War Diary

18. 4. 40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

Kirkenes -Tromso

IMOGEN is returning to Kirkenes to escort a second battalion of Norwegian troops for Tromso, (F.O.I.C.I.C.S. 1017/18).
This convoy will be joined by other transports from Alta.

Narvik

WARSPITE sailed for Scapa with 4 destroyers am/18. The supply of fuel is causing some anxiety. Destroyers' supplies remaining on board are down to 25% and the next oiler, WAR PINDARI, will not arrive until about 21 /4.

Namsos

First French troop convoy has been delayed one day and will not arrive until tomorrow night. CHROBRY completed disembarkation of her troops 0430/18 and unloaded the remainder of her stores during the night 18/19.

Aandalsnes - Aalesund.

Troops and guns have been disembarked successfully. Operation Sickle.
Disembarkation of Brig. Morgan's Brigade began at 2100/18 at Aandalsnes and Molde.

French Troop Convoy

A second French troop convoy left Brest 1830/18 for Clyde.

British Air Activity

During the night 17/18 Bomber Command made the following raids:

Trondheim with 6 aircraft, target not located owing to bad weather .

Stavanger with 11 aircraft, 6 reached target.

Oslo with 2 aircraft.

The Norwegian coast between Stadlandet and Stavanger was searched. No enemy warships were seen in Trondheim.

Mines were laid in German waters by 45 aircraft during the night 17/18).

War Diary.

19. 4. 40.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines reported.

1918	57° 09' N., 2° W., 085° Girdle Ness 3', reported by s.s. BALTEAKO. (I.C.0426/40). 19th A/S.S.F.searching. (A.S.W.D.229).
1828	(see s/m's attacked).
2211-2236	58° 10' N., 2° W., 30' to 60' N. Kinnaird Head, indefinite position. (0426/40,I.C.).
1925	54° 56' N., 5° 30' W., 300° Port Patrick 16'. P/S on southerly course reported by cross-Channel steamer, reliability uncertain. (I.C. 0425/40). (A.C.W.A.0151/20, 0019/20).
Pm	Halse Fjord (Kristiansand N.)(I.C.0427/40).

Submarines attacked.

U-boat ashore.	U-boat reported ashore Maline Head. A/c sent. Investigate (A.C.W.A.1159/19 to VERSATILE, SALADIN). If U-boat is ashore order her to abandon ship. If order not obeyed fire one or two warning rounds. When U-boat has been abandoned she is to be holed to prevent refloating. (C.in C.,W.A.1225/19 to VERSATILE, SALADIN).
1828	(? French) destroyer escorting transport dropped d.c's 52° 33' N. 5° 57' W. at 1935 he rejoined Convoy and ROCHESTER remains to hunt. At 1957 dropped patterns. (ROCHESTER 2021/19) (A.S.W.D.229).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

1603 GALATEA reported a single unexplained explosion about 60 miles N.W. of Stadlandlet. Possible she was unsuccessfully attacked by a U-boat (C.S.W.D.229).

Submarines reported.

Estimated disposition. No indication of changes except that one is in Irish Sea. (D.D.I.C.1333/19).

WALKER ordered to make Chicken Rock at dawn and sweep to 298° Bar Light Vessel 15½ miles. VERSATILE attacked contact 2000/18 and buoyed position (N.O.I.C.Liverpool 0027/19).

1500 Mal Hd. reports 2 U-boats on surface 8 miles W. proceeding E., 2 destroyers and a/c bearing N.E. (C.in C., W.A., 1737/19).

1115 Off Videro (FRANKLIN 1250/19) 61-28 N.,6.56 W 2' W. of Sudero. S/m seen on surface, co.N. (I.C.0425/40).

1603 see GALATEA, ships attacked.

0855 see DENBIGHSHIRE, Ships Attacked.

1300 In Loksefiord, 68° 55' N., 17° 40' E. *

---- In Westfiord, 67° 30' N., 12° 30' E. *

1950 In Westfiord, 67° 41' N., 13° 05' E. *

*Reports originating from Navy Office, Tromso, reliability unknown. (I.C.0426/40).

0906 64° 20' N., 2° E., 327° Stadtlandet 155', indefinite position (I.C., 0426/40).

0900 59° 40' N., 3° 25' E., 243° Bergen, 74' reported by A/C (I.C.0426/40).

War Diary.

19. 4. 40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

RIO DE JANEIRO	5861 G.T. Confirmed that this ship was intercepted at 1112 and sunk by ORZEL at 1145/8 in position 58° 08' N., 08° 29' E. (I.C., 0425/40).
NORDLAND	Intercepted W/T message 1015/17 from agents at Sarpsborg, Norway, 59° 16' N., 11° 07' E., to agents at Danzig, states ship has been unloaded, crew had been interned for two days, and ship not yet allowed to sail. (I.C.0425/40).

War Diary.

19. 4. 40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand.

U.S. Convoys.

Your 1250/17. N.2 Government would prefer to substitute an 8" cruiser for 6"&c. (N2 NB 1926/19).

Regret no further strengthening of escort practicable at present (D.O.D.(F) 2000/20 to NZNB).

War Diary.

19. 4. 40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Troop convoy.
TC 3.

Your 1739/18. Montreal satisfactory except from Naval point of view. R.C.N. can only protect transports sailing from Halifax. Information of troops sailing from St. Lawrence River Ports will immediately reach U.S.A. and convoy cannot be evasively routed until after passing Cabot Straits 36-48 hours after sailing. (C.N.S. Ottawa 1116/19).

Norwegian ships.

Requiring insurance (N.C.S.O. Trinidad, 1800/19).

Danish Ships.

Admiralty 1416/18. Danish Shipping Committee, New York, under authority of Danish Ambassador Committee, has taken charge of all Danish ships in U.S.A. Suggest negotiations be undertaken direct with this Committee. (C.N.S. Ottawa 1014/19).

Position is fully realised. Attempts being made to negotiate (Hd. of M. 1207/20).

East Indies.

S.O. Red Sea Force.

Your 1204/13. Approved for F.O.C.14 CS to transfer flag to LIVERPOOL for duty as S.O. Red Sea Force (1st S.L. 2324/19).

Norwegian ships.

Your 1143/18. Before sailing with armed guards those ships remaining at Calcutta suggest awaiting my 0725/19 which is an extract from Admiralty 1416/18.(C.in C.E.I 1125Z/19 to F.O.C.R.I.N.).

Australia.

US 2

Probably leaving Freemantle pm/22/4. French cruiser SUFFREN to relieve H.M.A.S.SYDNEY (Aust. N.B., 0030Z/19, 0120Z/19).

SYDNEY

To be relieved by SUFFREN near Cocos I., to proceed to Freemantle as ocean escort US 3 to Suez or Aden (A.C.N.D.0030Z/19).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

A/S Patrol of Straits. Re. report from Rome that Italian spies have left for Germany an intensive A/S patrol of Straits of Gib. is to be established forthwith. Italian s/m's should be sunk if submerged or on surface if without escort, both on high seas and in Spanish territorial waters. Under our agreement with Italy her s/m's have no right to be on surface outside the excercise area unless accompanied by a surface ship. (D.C.N.S.1650/19 to F.O.C.N.A)

Ocean convoys. Situation 2000/19 (C.in C., W.A.,1407/19).

South Atlantic.

Norwegian ships. Committee established at Min. of Shipping, London to control movements.(C.in C., S.A. 1241/19).

Whale factory ships sailing Monday from Rio de Janeiro to Trinidad. Advised to disregard numerous instructions from Oslo. (A.N.A. Rio, 1649/19).

Mediterranean.

My 1138/18 (personal circulation), last para. no action required until N.A.'s proposals have been considered in London (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C., Med., 0121/19).

1st S/M. Flotilla. Disposition (C.in C., Med., 1313/19).

CLAN RANALD sabotage. Enquiry into fire on board at Suez 16/2 suggests sabotage. Ship loaded Liverpool and storage cargo is open to suspicion (C.in C., Med., 1917/19).

Suspicious S/m. Pilot of F/B CASSIOPA report 1 s/m 200 miles 315° Alexandria at 0900/19, crash dived on sighting aircraft. 1 cruiser 2 funnels off Malesa, south of Corfu at 1200/19 (Imperial Airways Agents, Poole, D.O.D.).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

RENOWN	Proceed to Rosyth. To be taken in hand for docking and repairs (C.in C., H.F.1230/19).
EDINBURGH	to be reduced to special complement (Hd. of M 1908/19).
EMILE BERTIN	See Air.

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Suspicious lights seen 2311/19 approx. 57° 40' N. 7° 0' E. - 57° 45' N. 7° 23' E. (H.Q.B.C.2345/19).

Weather.

0500 POST/19/4.

N. Sea North	Wind E. or N.E. moderate.	Good or moderate.	Similar in North, wind becoming S.W. or S. and moderating in South.
South	Variable, strong to gale.		
Channel W.	moderate or fresh.	Good or moderate.	Wind backing South.
W. Approaches.S.	Light	Very good.	Wind backing S.E. Visibility deteriorating.
Horns Reef.S.	Fresh or strong.	Moderate or poor.	Wind veering S.W. Visibility improving.
Norwegian coast.	Main N.E.moderate but variable light in S.W. corner.	Good.	Mainly similar. Wind feshening visibility deteriorating in extreme South.

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Ex-Norwegian ships. Norwegian torpedo boat LAKS at Trondheim is reported to be now in German hands, and the torpedo boats SILD and SKARV may also be German (I.C.0426/40).

Cargo ship. About 1500-2000 tons from Bergen to Germany will leave Bjoernefiorden over Slettce about 0300/19. (Portishead Radio 0236/19).

Cruiser &c. German cruiser, 1 destroyer, 1 s/m, 1 M.T.B. in Lervik on Stootboen harbour (Portishead Radio THI 1056/19)(40 miles S. of Bergen) air reconnaissance arranged (D.C.0252/20) (I.C.0426/40).

German naval forces in Norway. B2. on 18/4 there were 3 transports and 8 light warships 2 miles E. Frederickshaven, 1 transport, 3 destroyers 3 miles N.N.E. Hirsholm steaming N.N.E. Many minesweepers working in Kattegat and Skagerrak. 1 destroyer WOLF class ashore outside Frederickshaven. Several empty transports returning from Oslo. Oslo 17/4 LEIPZIG and BRUMMER query, one MAAS, 3 MOWE, 6 Vedette boats, 2 minesweepers Kristiansand probably few destroyers. Bergen no large, several small destroyers (D.D.I.C. 1707/19 to V.A.(S).

SCHEER Seems possible ADMIRAL SCHEER is still at Frederickshaven. If so, might be possible to finish her off by another torpedo attack. Request air reconnaissance to confirm her position (V.A.S. 1858/19 to Admiralty). Considered SCHEER is now in a German home port (D.C.2341/19 to V.A.S.).

Transports. Troop concentration and transport with 2 destroyers reliably reported at Fredericks-haven also troop concentrations at Helsingor 0236/19. 6 merchant ships at anchor LKND 1920 at 1300 (R.A.(S) 2004/19 to s/m's on patrol).

Warship resembling German tender TSINGTAU accompanied by trawler northbound in JSGD 1848 58° 18' N., 10° 48' E., (16 m. N. of Shaw) at 0530/19 (TRIAD 2131/19)(I.C.0426/40)

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

NORSE KING — Norwegian, at Dublin, £1600 owing for harbour dues, etc. No money forthcoming from Oslo. (N.A., Dublin, 1325/19).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Submarine reports.

From Navy Office, Tromso-Times G.M.T.
1200 68° 55' N. 17° 40' E.
? 67° 30' N. 12° 30' E.
1850 67°(?) 41' N. 13° 5' E. steering westward. (FORTUNE 2330/19 to F.O.Narvik).

AUGUST LEONHARDT sunk 11/4 — 11/4 SEALION fired 2 torpedoes range 2700 yards at her, she sank quickly, 10 miles S. Anholt (S3 0110/19).

MOONSUND sunk 12/4 — SNAPPER attacked her unsuccessfully at dawn with 2 torpedoes, finally sinking her by gunfire, 6 out of 7 crew saved, 2 died later. (S3 1727/19).

German landings Oslo. — Norwegian G.S. states Germans landing troops Oslo, Drombak, Skeiberg all in Oslo Fiord also AFVS, Norwegians have only infantry to oppose (CAIRO) 1339/19).

Main Units. — No reliable reports of German main units since 12/4 but probable all large warships are now in home waters. Aircraft carrier "B" was located in advanced state of construction at Kiel 7/4. GRAF ZEPPELIN believed to be still undergoing trials. (D.D.I.C.1701/19 to A 1945).

Minelaying. — Early on 19/4, a German force of about 12 vessels consisting of destroyers, M.T.B.'s, and trawlers, was reported operating in outer Hardanger Fiord, possibly minelaying (I.C.0426/40).

Ex-Danish ships. — Report (B.2) that the Germans have taken over from Denmark 11 torpedo boats, 4 submarines and other auxiliary vessels.

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

803 squadron to be embarked at Scapa as ordered in my 1413/16 (D.N.A.D. 1954/19, GLORIOUS 0049/20).

Air Searches for 20/4 (C.in C. Rosyth, 1938/19).

263 Squadron to be employed in Norway in support of operations, commencing in Trondheim theatre very shortly (Air Min.1930/19 to Fighter Command).

Firing at a/c's area. Extension of area of sea over which fighters and ships may fire at sight at night at a/c's burning navigation lights is to be extended southward and westward as far as 2° W. in English Channel from 2000/20.(Air Min.2004/19

Remarks of C.in C.,W.A.on M.M/L.D.0223/40 of 5/4/40. Ref. Admiralty 2001/29/3.(C.inC.,W.A. 1754/18).

Rosyth A.A. defence. Asking for reinforcement of A.A. defences at Rosyth in view of concentration of shipping in Forth.(C.in C. Rosyth 1205/19). In view of urgent demands for A.A. defences for other urgent requirements regret defences of Rosyth cannot be reinforced at present (D.of L.D. 2017/19).

Mining.

Sweeping reports. Harwich, Yarmouth, curtailed by weather (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1920/19) Blyth, North Tyne curtailed by weather (F.O.I.C.Tyne 2027/19).

Shipping.

Convoys

HX 31 On time, favourable weather (D.T.D.1051/19)

HX 37 Advance sailing telegram (Canadian S.N.O., Halifax, 1526/18, recd. 0425/19).

DG 26 Sailing telegram (C.in C., W.A. 0924/19).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Enemy a/c attacks.

ARETHUSA	Bombed in 062 BFRU11 (ARETHUSA 0533/19). 63° 6' N. 3° 44' E.
Capt. D4	Bombed (Capt.D4 0500/19 to CS 18).
AUCKLAND	Bombed XKRU2910 (AUCKLAND 0754/19) 2 a/c's, 2 bombs, no hits (AUCKLAND 0816/19, 1100/19, 1715/19, 1813/19).
GALATEA	Bombed 266 PFOX 9 (GALATEA 1603/19).
CAIRO	Bombed by 1 a/c no hits 160 RJGD17 (CAIRO 1804/19).
EMILE BERTIN	escorting 1st French Convoy was attacked by an a/c off Namsos 1880 and damaged by one hit. See also 20/4 Casualties.

Attack to be made on Aalborg Aerodrome by night as soon as practicable with primary object of destroying enemy a/c's on aerodrome (Air Ministry 1230/19 to Bomber Command).

A/C reports. Oslo 0045/19. Fog prevented locating target (Donibristle 0755/19 H.Q.B.C.1010/19).

Hangesund. Bombed 14 ships in bay 0914, no hits. (Donibristle 1210/19).

Establishing aerodrome on frozen lake between Aandalsnes and Dombaas Cruiser to take advance party. (D.O.D.(H) 1422/19) Lakes suitable (names given) for a further fortnight. Re projected aerodrome at Moa near Aalesund and Bud.(Air Ministry 1530/19).

GLORIOUS My 1413/16 and 1958/15. GLORIOUS will be required to embark an R.A.F. squadron of 18 Gladiators. In order to make room, she is to fly off 812 and 825 squadrons to Hatston.

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Submarines.

Reports.

SEALION	reports 2 darkened ships closed in E. coast mine barrier night 2/4 both escaped owing to high speed. 7/4 in Kattegat. 16/4 attacked by a/c's 3 or 4 bombs exploded quite close no damage. (S3 0110/19).
SEAL	In collision 2348/8 with Estonian ss OTTO in dense fog 10 miles S.W. Naze, damage slight. Off Stavanger &c. q.v. (S2 1149/19).
Patrol positions	PORPOISE, CASABIANCA, ACHILLE, SFAX (R.A.(S) 1359/19). AMAZONE (Capt.(S)10 2357/19).
Information	Landing of Allied troops in North Norway proceeding satisfactorily. It is of utmost importance that s/m's continue to do all they can to interrupt seaborne communications between Germany and Norway. Hoped that a raid by French destroyers into Skagerrak to destroy enemy A/S vessels will take place shortly (R.A.(S)1934/19 to s/m's on patrol).
positions	0600/20 (D.C.2300/19).

Norwegian Naval Forces.

French MA reports 1230/18. Remaining serviceable secorts Norwegian Navy reorganised and are operating on W.N. coast Norway, composition unknown. Admiralty is with G.H.Q. under C.in C. (Norwegian H.Q. 2146/19).

Air.

Reports of enemy a/c's. GALATEA 0519/19, FLAMINGO shadowed (0723/19) CAIRO shadowed (CAIRO1306/19) REPULSE shadowed (1323/19) ASHANTI shadowed (1330/19) 2006/19).

War Diary.

19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Stavanger.

SEAL reports air activity continuous near Stavanger, marked decrease after air raid and bombardment 17/4. No shipping seen entering or leaving by Skudesnes or Hastun Fiord, consider supplies reach Stavanger by ships keeping inside Jaederens buoy or rail from Egersund. (S2 1149/19).

War Diary.

19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bergen.

A/c report 1320, 2 miles S. Bergen 7 m.v's at anchor. 1325 Bergen Harbour approx. 40 m.v's, 1 M.v against inside of N. quay apparently on fire (Donibristle 1705/19).

Minefield (German) reported laid at junction Sor Fiord and Oster Fiord 60° 32' N. 5° 20' E. (AUCKLAND 1425/19).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.

HOME COMMANDS.

Aandalnes.

Operation Sickle.

Operation Sickle completed.

Operation Sickle completed without opposition Your 2319/19. Intend now leaving only one sloop at Aalesund (CS 2 0700/19 to Admiralty).

Primary task remains secure Dombaas area. Now probable you will be reinforced by another brigade (C 195 to Sickle, D.S.O. 1948/19 to BLACK SWAN).

C.in C. Norwegian forces asks Brig. Morgan to place himself under his orders (Primrose 2315/19 to Admiralty).

War Diary.

19. 4. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Aandalsnes.

Operation Primrose.

Outside small area controlled by Primrose and Sickle there are no Norwegian authorities Civil, Military or Naval at present capable of contributing to any war projects. Communications by open civil telephone, continuously interrupted. Authorities have no conception of what war means.

Concur with 1600/19 from Primrose and BLACK SWAN re necessity for holding Aandalsnes but doubt whether local small craft handled by local Norwegians is practical method to effect landing in face of opposition. Any operation other than purely military in face of enemy depending in any degree on Norwegian cooperation is impractical. (S.N.O. Molde 2100/19 to Admiralty).

In view of constant presence and frequent attack by German a/c's Aandalsnes Aalsund need protection of A.A. batteries of light craft or A.A. cruisers (S.N.O.Molde 2300/19 to Admiralty).

Norwegian C.in C. insists reinforcements be disembarked without least delay at Andalsnes. This operation must have priority over all others (H.Q.Norway 1505/19).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Aandalsnes, Aalesund.

Aalesund force.

Primrose to Admiralty. Re. AUCKLAND's 0229/19 to BLACK SWAN. Unless A.A. guns can be sent to Aalesund propose that force there be withdrawn. Sickle can neither spare naval A.A. guns from Aandalsnes nor any from his own force. Ends 1230/19. (concur with Primrose (BLACK SWAN 1310/19 to Admiralty).

Aalesund has not been bombed though enemy a/c's pass frequently. Main W/T V:Kero I. bombed, out of action, small station Norvo I available. Possible 4 parachute mines dropped E. and Harhams Fiord 62° 38' 6° 14'.(AUCKLAND 1425/19).

FLAMINGO, BITTERN return to Rosyth forthwith. (C.in C. Rosyth 1843/19).

Your 2029/19. Leave force at Aalesund and conceal guns. Two. H.A. guns should arrive about 23/4 (D.O.D.(H) 2256/19 to AUCKLAND).

Aalesund force to be withdrawn.

Your 1310/19. Approved to withdraw force temporarily. A.A. guns are being sent as soon as possible. Inform inhabitants withdrawal will be until guns arrive (D.O.D.(H)1750/19). My 0229 and BLACK SWAN's 1310. Withdrawal after such short interval would have deplorable results. Local Militia completely untrained. If ideal of some HA/LA guns even short range cannot be achieved strongly recommend retention of troops and withdrawal of LA guns. OC troops fully concurs(AUCKLAND 2029/19 to Admiralty).

War Diary.

19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Aandalsnes.

Capt. Denny.
Brig. Morgan.

Operation Primrose.

(BLACK SWAN, BITTERN, FLAMINGO, AUCKLAND, CURACOA, CS2, D4).

My 2015. Arrival of AUCKLAND with R.M. enthusiastically received. Re. A.A. defences. Aalsund now a defended port without A.A. defence. (ACUKLAND 0229/19 to BLACK SWAN).

Indicate your position and intended course and speed to enable Battle Flight to reach you when range permits (D.C.0700/19 to CS2).

Landing effected. Primrose.

Morgan to W.O. Landed Aandalsnes 2100/18 without incident. Primrose here with 500 men 8 pompoms also detachment Aalesund 200 men 2-4" L.A. Cooperating with Norwegian 11th Rifle Regiment holding ports to Dombaas inclusive.

Sickle.

Am moving Sickle direct to Dombaas at once. (F.O.C. 2 CS 0045/19).

When cruisers have sailed 0300/19 BITTERN return to Aalesund, FLAMINGO proceed alongside to Molde and transport troops to Aandalsnes. (CS 2 0052/19).

Your 0815/19. Have joined up with CS 2 15 miles W. Buddybet. Instruction to attack has been made (CURACOA 0935/19 to Admiralty).

Landing at Vinte by RM.

Admiralty 2319/18 para C. BLACK SWAN detailed. (BLACK SWAN 1420/19).

Brigadier proposes sending 100 R.M. and 88 Naval ratings from Aalesund. Marines have detachments as far as Verna 22 miles inland. No personnel can be withdrawn without relief. (BLACK SWAN 1620/19).

War Diary.

19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Trondheim.

Operation Hammer.

LAKS — Norwegian T.B. reported in German hands at Trondheim. Norwegian T.B.'s SILD and SKARV in that vicinity may also be German (AUCKLAND 1839/19).

Blockade. — Your 0046/19. Appears possible enemy contemplate sending reinforcements and supplies to Trondheim by sea. Strict blockade therefore essential which apparently can only be achieved by patrol of Kraakvag Fiord and another in Trondheim Leden. Arrange accordingly (D.C.N.S. 2120/19 to C.in C., H.F.).

Enemy forces ashore. — F.O.C. 2 CS 0045/19.

German forces Namsos-Trondheim area considered increased to 5000 by air landings (W.O. 1651/19 to Wiart and Morgan) Estimate 3900 (W.O.2125/19 to Maurice, Sickle).

A/S trawlers. — 19 with A.A. armament can be ready to leave Aberdeen sm/21 for operation Hammer if required. (D.A./S.W. 2011/19 to C.in C., H.F.)

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Trondheim.

Operation Hammer.

IVANHOE
ICARUS
IMPULSIVE
(D 20).

Your 1639/18. Request they may be sailed for Rosyth as soon as possible without mines. (C.in C., H.F., 0105/19 to Admiralty).

Operation Hammer.

ORION
SOBIESKI
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL

Details of embarkation of assault force. Rosyth 21/4, Greenock 20/4. All cruisers will carry approx. 300 men and 30 tons stores each. Two cruisers to carry an ALC. RM 3.7" howitzer battery. Divisional Staff &c. Ships to be used 4 cruisers, 17 destroyers, 58 loops (apparently 4 battalions including Canadians). Stores and reserve 147th Bde.

Naval Base Staff embark 19/4 in SOBIESKI and DUCHESS OF ATHOLL at Clyde and s.s.ORION at Rosyth, troops will be transferred at Scapa 21/4 to cruisers. (D.O.D.(H)0117/19 to C.in C., H.F.).

General information.

Guns on Agdenes Point, 15 or 21 cms. No. 3. fort is demolished &c. Troops originally only 1200. German ships are still thought to be getting in. Minelayer FROYA was blown up by her crew near Ostract 63° 42' N. 9° 45' E. but is alleged to have laid her mines first near head of mined Tronheim Fiord but without detonators. SLEIPNER and TRYGG were at Molde. GARM and one B class ship are in Sogne Fiord. Molde is evacuated. Small uncompleted sea-plane base on S. side Mitteren I. 9° 7' E. Germans are using racecourse just E. of Trondheim and frozen lake 63° 21' N. 10° 37' E. as auxiliary aerodrome and clearing land for further landing ground. Underground petrol tanks near lake, petrol situation probably becoming increasingly difficult. (C.in C., H.F., 1238/19 to Admiralty).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Trondheim.

Operation Hammer.

IVANHOE
ICARUS
IMPULSIVE
(D 20).

Your 1639/18. Request they may be sailed for Rosyth as soon as possible without mines. (C.in C., H.F., 0105/19 to Admiralty).

Operation Hammer.

ORION
SOBIESKI
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL

Details of embarkation of assault force. Rosyth 21/4, Greenock 20/4. All cruisers will carry approx. 300 men and 30 tons stores each. Two cruisers to carry an ALC. RM 3.7" howitzer battery. Divisional Staff &c. Ships to be used 4 cruisers, 17 destroyers, 58 loops (apparently 4 battalions including Canadians). Stores and reserve 147th Bde.

Naval Base Staff embark 19/4 in SOBIESKI and DUCHESS OF ATHOLL at Clyde and s.s.ORION at Rosyth, troops will be transferred at Scapa 21/4 to cruisers. (D.O.D.(H)0117/19 to C.in C., H.F.).

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War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Namsos.

Operation Maurice.

Your 1646/19. Cannot reach Namsos Fiord in time for tonight for tonights landing (C.S.18 1850/19 to C.in C., H.F.).

Previous instruction cancelled. MANCHESTER, extra A.A. cruisers and one destroyer return to Namsos area and assist the French. BIRMINGHAM return to Scapa. GALATEA, ARETHUSA to Rosyth. One A.A. cruiser to Aandalsnes area, one A.A. cruiser return to Scapa. (C.in C., H.F., 1646/19).

Your 1646/19. Please explain to French Admiral why I cannot be present tonight when they make their first landing. He will be unlikely to appreciate my intervention at a later stage and his present force should be adequate (C.S.18 1942/19 to C.in C., H.F.).

Wiart to W.O. Hope to disembark troops but fear will not get all stores off. French Admiral disinclined to remain tomorrow unless at anchor which up to date has been impossible owing to enemy a/c's. If he leaves I shall have no means of communication with you. All our destroyers have left and CAIRO sole remaining ship is short of ammunition and will probably have to leave also. Can you send destroyer to Namsos each night to report on situation (CAIRO 2044/19 to Adty.).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Namsos.

Operation Maurice. CS18
General Wiart.

(CS 18, D6, GLASGOW, SOUTHAMPTON, WX Convoy, MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, CURLEW, ARETHUSA).

A/c attack on Varnes aerodrome 18/4. By 2 R.A.F. planes. No Germans at aerodrome during raid, sometimes 30 planes there. No. damage to aerodrome. Railway line hit. (Capt. D4 0141/19 to Admiralty).

Jetty. Jetty at Namsos is very frail. No cranes or tugs. Essential only small ships are sent. Ship size of CHROBRY grave risk (F.O.C. 18 CS 1827/18 to Admiralty).

BLACKHEATH and BALMAHA cannot be accepted at Namsos at same time as French ships and therefore not before 22/4 (F.O.C. 18 C.S. 2217/18 to C.in C., H.F.).

A.A. protection. CAIRO. Assume you have A.A. cruiser available for F.P.one (D.O.D.(H) 0049/19 to C.S.18) to return to and remain in Namsos area to provide A.A. protection for French convoy due to arrive 2000/19 (C.in C., H.F., 0137/19).

CHROBRY unloaded, sailing from Namsos now some local timber embarked (Capt. D4 0320/19 to F.O.C. 18 C.S.).

FP 2 Sailed 1730/18.

FS 2 Sailed 2330/18. (D.C. 0401/19).

French troops. Troops disembarked. 2 transports completely cleared of stores and 2 part cleared (CAIRO 0230/20 to C.in C., H.F.).

Crew of enemy a/c force landed captured 18/4 Namsos area state enemy do not know we are here. Suggest immediate action with B.B.C. who have been putting us on air. Enemy highly suspicious therefore bluff doubtful value. (Fleming to W.O. CAIRO 2159/19).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik.

Indicator nets. Laid, positions (PENELOPE 2055/19).

Oiler. Hope you will let me have oiler today, most urgent (F.O.Narvik 2135/19 to F.O.C.I.C.S.).

Sail oiler WAR PINDARI to Harstad (F.O.Narvik 2223/19 to FORTUNE).

Norwegian Representative. Governor Fylkesmann of Tromso has assumed responsibility for all matters other than military and regards himself as representative of Norwegian Government.in the area Finnon of Vest Narvik. He requests H.M. Forces shall not purchase or requisition any provisions other than fish, anticipating shortage for civil population. Requests all matters of policy be referred to him. His credentials appeared reasonable (F.O.C. 1 C.S., 1201/19).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik.

Fagernes W/T station. Important to destroy it 68° (?44') 30" N. 17° 26' E. (F.O. Narvik 0938/19).

FURIOUS a/c attacks. Intends to proceed to Harstad and to work in that area cooperating in attack on Narvik. (C.S.I. 1051/19 to F.O. Narvik).

Maximum speed 22 knots. Operation of Skuas doubtful (FURIOUS 1203/19).

Your 1634/18. Intend operating a/c's in flights of 3 from 0230/20 from 69° 19' N. 16° of E. Cannot get there earlier (FURIOUS 1354/19, 1735/19).

SOUTHAMPTON Your 1941/18. SOUTHAMPTON urgently needed to provide A.A. protection for merchant ships. If A.A. cruiser could be provided this might free SOUTHAMPTON (F.O. Narvik 1541/19). Keep her for present (C.in C., H.F., 0104/20 to F.O. Narvik).

WARSPITE to cooperate in landing operations. Cancel my 1617/18. WARSPITE is to return to Narvik area and continue to cooperate with landing operations (C.in C., H.F., 1634/19 to F.O.C.B.C.S.).

Proposing Malangen Fiord S.E. of Spildero 69° 25' N. 18° 32' E. for oiling, during dark hours. Concerned about condition of 55 wounded who have been 6 days in WARSPITE. Further call on accommodation and medical supplies would make Hospital Ship urgent necessity in Narvik area. (F.O.C.B.C.S. 2109/19 to F.O. Narvik).

FURIOUS attack. Your 1354/19. Concentrate on railway and store depot at Sildvik. U-boat is operating in outer approaches to Vaagsfiord (F.O. Narvik 2302/19 to FURIOUS).

WARSPITE Cancel my 1447/19 (Re WARSPITE, HOSTILE, HERO, HAVOCK, FOXHOUND (F.O.C.B.C.S.1727/19).

War Diary.

19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Narvik. (Tromso, Skeldfiord).

Lord Cork.
General Mackesey.

(WARSPITE, PENELOPE, FURIOUS, ZULU, EFFINGHAM ENTERPRISE).

Destroyers. Owing to urgent requirements it is necessary to limit destroyers in Narvik area to following number:-

(a) Under F.O. Narvik - 4.

(b) Patrol in Narvik and Skjel Fiord area 5 including Capt (D) 8 and FORTUNE.

Request all destroyers in excess of above including ZULU may be sailed for SCapa with despatch forthwith. PUNJABI and JUPITER are to escort BRITISH LADY (C.in C., H.F.0022/19 to F.O. Narvik, PENELOPE).

German reinforcements. Act as if it is certain reinforcements 900 men left Germany 17/4 for Narvik in destroyers They may have air escort (C.in C., H.F. 0804/19 to Capt. D8).

Capacity of harbour. PENELOPE 0820/19 to F.O. Narvik.

Landing at Bogen. Troops in VINDICTIVE will be landed 1300 at Bogen by 14 fishing craft (F.O.Narvik 0840/19

Your 1815/18. Cannot (?consider) military for purpose of assault at moment but hope to bring about opening which will cause it to be adopted. A battleship would assist to this end and suggest R class. I should be glad of her. Please cause early despatch of A.A. ammunition (F.O.Narvik 0935/19 Personal 18 for 1st Sea Lord).

War Diary.

19. 4. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

18th C.S.	18th C.S., E.C.C. 18 C.S. in MANCHESTER and BIRMINGHAM to arrive Rosyth not later than am/20. GLASGOW and SHEFFIELD to arrive Clyde by same date. Destroyers in Namsos area other than MOHAWK, ASHANTI are to proceed towards Scapa on completion of landings tonight Thursday 18/4 and then to destination ordered by R.A.(D)H.F.(C.in C., H.F.0037/19).
YORK	Return to Scapa not later than pm 20/4 (C.in C.H.F., 0053/19).
French Convoy.	CAIRO to meet in 65° 10' N. 9° E. 1400/19 and escort the first 2 to Namsos. (C.S.18 0510/19 to CAIRO).
CURACOA	Indicate your position and intended course to enable Battle Flight to reach you when range permits (D.C.0815/19 to CURACOA).
DRAUG	Is at your disposal (D.C.N.S.0146/19 to C.in C., H.F.).
Destroyers required and available.	In near future. Operation Hammer 45 &c.Total requirement 68, total available 68. A margin for casualties is essential (C.in C., H.F. 0201/19). Our reckoning is 74 available plus 9 French. (D.O.D.(H) /19 to C.in C., H.F.). 3 French contre torpilleurs, 2 French s/ms and FOXGLOVE anchored in Downs until weather moderates (V.A.Dover 0835/19).
ARK ROYAL	HASTY and JUNO to R.V. in 55° 28' N., 10° 00' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2359/19).

War Diary

19. 4. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report.

Enemy Air Activity (Cont.) There was constant activity throughout the day by enemy aircraft on patrol off the Norwegian coast, numerous reports from H.M. ships indicated that they were being shadowed off Molde, Aalsund and Namsos.

Reports indicate that there was considerable aircraft activity in the Skagerrak and off Kristiansand South during the afternoon.

An enemy reconnaissance aircraft force landed at Namsos on the afternoon of 18/4 and the crew were captured.

Norwegian Destroyer DRAUG placed at disposal of C. in C., H.F., but is old and coal burning, and it is thought more efficient to make use of the local knowledge of her personnel.

Mediterranean Situation It is reported from Rome that Italian submarines have left for Germany. The Admiralty have ordered an A/S patrol of the Straits of Gibraltar to be established forthwith. Italian submarines are to be sunk if submerged or on the surface without escort, both on the high seas and in Spanish territorial waters, since under our agreement with Italy her submarines have no right to be on the surface outside the exercise area unless accompanied by a surface ship.

War Diary

19. 4. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Situation report.

Narvik

Forces taking up position to attack. Redistribution of troops from Harstad to positions nearer Narvik began.

WARSPITE has been ordered to return to the area to cooperate in landing operations. Owing to urgent requirements C. in C. H.F. has recalled from the area all destroyers in excess of 9.

Namsos

MANCHESTER (C.S. 18) BIRMINGHAM, GLOUCESTER and SHEFFIELD and all destroyers in Namsos area sailed for U.K. The remaining destroyers are patrolling south of Trondheim to prevent German reinforcements arriving.

French Brigade land tonight and 20/4.

Forces at Namsos are consolidating.

EMILE BERTIN, escorting 1st French Convoy, was attacked by an aircraft off Namsos 1800/19 and damaged by one hit.

Aandalsnes - Aalesund - Molde.

Second portion of British Brigade for Aandalsnes area is now crossing.

The landing of Brig. Morgan's Brigade (operation Sickle) was completed early on 19/4 without opposition .

British Air Activity

During the night 18/19 Bomber Command sent 3 aircraft to attack Varnes aerodrome and 6 to attack aerodromes near Oslo. All other Bomber Command activities planned for the night were cancelled owing to bad weather.

Bomber Command were unable to continue bombing Stavanger Aerodrome owing to lack of cloud cover.

Enemy Air Activity

In addition to EMILE BERTIN (damaged) CAIRO, AUCKLAND, AFRIDI, ARETHUSA were unsuccessfully bombed.

No activity of a special nature to report during 19/4. The usual meteorological flight took place in the direction of Kinnaird Head and as far north as the Orkneys. Other enemy aircraft were reported as active off various points on the N.E. Coast of Scotland during the forenoon, presumably on reconnaissance as no reports of attacks on shipping have been received.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines reported. (Contd)

1812	My 1812/20 (report of submarine). Coastguard, V Vaternish, Skye, reports large A/C dropped 3 bombs entrance Loch Dunvegan at 1915. Bombs exploded on water and after third bomb black object appeared on surface, then disappeared. (C.in.C. Rosyth, 2027/20).
1250	57° 3' N. 5° 30' E seen on surface by SEVERN (I.C. 0427/40).
1300	4 miles N of Griminish, seen by fishermen. Doubtful. (I.C.0427/40)

Submarines Attacked.

0614	By ROCHESTER 343° Great Ormes Head 15 (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0845/20) (Rochester 0614/20).
2216	By H.M.S. MOLLUSC 52° 34' N., 02° 01' E. SHELDRAKE in company considers contact doubtful. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2216/20).
0900	U-Boat of about 200 tons bombed by A/C L.K.4S. 4042, no hits (H.Q.CC. 1711/20).
0906	D.F. C.K.W.Y. 2000 (U.R.C.C.1711/20).
1015	Reported by French naval unit X.U.D.N. 0309. (H.Q. C.C.1711/20).
0948	Reported by Coastguard, N.F.25 4004. A/C from Thorney Island. investigating. (H.Q. C.C.1711/20).
1420	By A/C in W.P.O.X.3206. (H.Q. C.C.1711/20).

War Diary.

20.4.40
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships Attacked.

HAWNBY
Mined

British 5,380 tons, outward bound with coal from Tyne for Gibraltar, mined in Thames Estuary off Knock John Buoy. Crew rescued by M.T.B.04 and taken Ramsgate. Consider isolated A/C mine, diversion not necessary. (C.-in-C. Nore, 1635/20).

MERSEY

British 1037 tons, which left Antwerp for the Downs on 17/4, was mined in Thames Estuary 51° 17.2" N., 01° 28.1" E. 2 were killed, 11 missing (D.C.N.S. 230). (V.A. Dover 1334/21).

Submarines reported.

Estimated dispositions are in general consistent with those recently given. Presence of one U/B near Faroes and of one between Firth of Forth and Kinnairds Head confirmed. Possibly one still in Irish Sea. (I.C.0426/40) (D.D.I.C.1523/20) (H.Q.C.C.1711/20)

0906 By D/F 64° 20'N 20'E (D.D.I.C.1002/20)
(A/C 224 Sqdn. 0906/20)

1015 Submarine bearing 060° 1 mile 62°63'N., 01°09'E., 90 m. N.E. from Muckle Flugga.
(Emile Bertin 1015/20).

0930 60° 12 miles L P I F 5950 (REPULSE intercept 0930/20)

0430 57° 04' N., 05° 30' E., 70 m. S.W. by S. from Lister Light, seen on surface by Severn (Severn 1250/20)

1420 60° 32' N., 04° 06' E., 60 m. W.N.W. from Bergen; seen on surface by A/C. (A/C 224 Sqdn.1420/20).

2000 59° 40' N, 03° 25' E., 50 m. N.W. by W. from Utsise Light, seen on surface by A/C.

2145 53° 50' N., 08° 51' E., off Cuxhaven, reported by A/C. (H.Q.B.C. 0130/21).
Position modified 53° 50' N., 08° 10' E.
(H.Q. B.C.0500/21).

2306 57° 20' N., 05° 10' E. seen on surface by A/C.
(H.Q.B.C.0340/21)

1938 60° 40' N., 0° 15' E. D.F. reliable fix
(D.D.I.C.2006/20)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

HOME COMMANDS

Stuttgart.	13,387 G.T. hospital ship, reported in Stockholm Press to have anchored off Varberg, Sweden, 57° 07' N., 12° 15' E. on night of 18/4 and proceeded towards Oslo on 19/4. (I.C.,0426/40).
Consul Heintz Rad Bod	Arrived Leipaja, (Libau) with coal 19/4.
Barcelona	From intercepted W/T messages, appears to expect to arrive at Holtenau at 1600/20.
KARIBSCHES MEER ERNST L.M. RUSS	Reported to have left Tallin for Germany 0600/19 the former (tanker) with 8,000 tons of Estonian oil and the Russ with provisions and general cargo. (I.C.0426/40).
RHEIN	Trawler, 254 tons, intercepted by FURIOUS and taken in prize. Proceeded to Harstar under escort by IMOGEN (I.C.0427/40).

CHINA

Essen Stassfurt.	Information obtained at Singapore from two Czech seamen deserters from German ship ESSEN (now at Sourabaya) is that German ships in D.E.I. intend to make a break. ESSEN has a supply of petrol to assist scuttling. Ships will make for Vladivostok, via Japan, where they hope for assistance from Japanese Navy. Five open cases containing 6 mm. machine guns had been sighted in STASSFURT (now at Tjilitjap). (I.C. 0426/40).

FOREIGN STATIONS

MEDITERRANEAN (Contd)

from Alexandria. 2-funnelled cruiser sighted south of Corfu (D.D.I.C.1916/20). Further investigation shows report is unreliable. (D.D.I.C.1451/20).

AMERICA & WEST INDIES.

Norwegian Ships. Admiralty 2328/17. Impression gained by contact large number of masters Bermuda & Trinidad is that placing armed guards on board Norwegian ships unnecessary and undesirable except in rare cases where sympathies of master are in doubt. (C.-in-C. A.W.I.0105/20).

Arnba - Curacao My 1443/14. Jamaica reports one company regular troops available. Mastinique willing to send infantry and 2 sections of artillery. Operation and administration simplified if French Force to Curacao and British to Arnba. (C.-in-C. A.W.I. 1127/20).

Bermuda Convoys. Bermuda is now convoy assembly port in addition to Halifax. First convoy will sail from Bermuda on 7/5. Details of anchorage. (C.-in-C.A.W.I. 2159/20).

NORTH ATLANTIC

French positions. 1300/20. (D.C.0202/20)

Danish ships. My 1315/15. Danish Vice Consul, Lisbon, has urged Masters and crews of Danish ships in Lisbon to sail for a British port, but cannot act without authority of New York. Request New York be asked to give necessary authority. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1625/20).

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

Freetown. Ships to be warned no fresh water can be guaranteed at Freetown. (C.-in-C. S.A.1231/20).

Dakar. My 0019/18. Owing anticipated difficult fuel oil position, further 14 catchers at Dakar should not be fuelled and must remain Dakar pending further orders. (D.T.D.1616/20).

Norwegian Shipping. Policy to be inaugurated in South Atlantic from 0800 G.M.T. 21/4. (C.-in-C. S.A.1251/20)

Fuelling. In neutral ports, Admiralty policy (Hd.of M. to R.A.S.A.D. 1711/20)

MEDITERRANEAN.

Malaya. To sail for Gibraltar after week-end leave. (D.O.D.(F)1550/20, 1906/20) sailed 1002 (C.-in-C. W.A. 1122/22).

Royal Sovereign. Proceed to Gibraltar at best possible speed. (1st S.L. 1548/20).

Genoa Boom. Report from Genoa (A.2) that boom has been replaced across mouth of Genoa harbour, leaving only narrow entrance for shipping. (Britnavat, Rome, 2015/20).

Swedish Destroyers. My 1650/17. Naples report 2 destroyers left 17/4 for Swedish Navy. Four sailed 18/4 for Gibraltar and Lisbon, partly manned by Italians and destined for Germany although flying Swedish flag. (S.O.I. Malta 1458/20).

Concur in proposals made in M.E.I.C./1/28 of 16/4. (C.-in-C. Med. 2021/20).

Alexandria A/S Groups. 5th and 28th A/S Groups to be sailed for Alexandria (Admlty 1856/20). Alexandria being the home port of vessels during hostilities (Hd.of M.1814/20).

Submarine Report. Civil aircraft Alexandria to Birndisi at 0900/19 observed submarine crash dived 200 miles 315°

from ....

War Diary

20.4.1940
Saturday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

EMILE BERTIN see 19/4	Asking for surface and air escort (EMILE BERTIN 0201/20) BROKE, ANTELOPE to proceed (R.A. (D) 04213/20 Expect air craft about 0830/20 (C. in C., Rosyth 0534/20)
CARLISLE	Developed leak after bombing (See Air)
BURZA	Polish destroyer. Returned to post with slight damage from rough seas. (R.A. (D) 1903/20)
RUTLANDSHIRE	Bombed and driven ashore at Namsos. see Namsos.
WEST WALES	British, explosion in 4" magazine, ~~xxx~~ suspected sabotage. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1210/20)

War Diary

20.4.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence.

KOLN

My No 57 of 15/4. Informant Swedish War Ministry add cruiser KOLN considered sunk. (Stockholm, 1330/20)

German ss SIMON VON UTRECHT reported with 6000 tons coal off Stromstad waiting to go into Oslo, (R.A.S., 1343/20)

Emden

Airraids (A.2) night of 19/20/4. Torpedo boats and destroyers 10 in all and 15 patrol vessels. April 19, 2 new submarines 700 tons. (N.A., Hague, 1840/20)

Minelaying

12 German destroyers (M.T.B's) and trawlers yesterday operating in middle Hardcach Fiord. Possible minelaying. (Norwegian H.Q., 07452/20)

War Diary

20. 4. 1940.
Saturday

Home Commands

Enemy Intelligence Contd.

RHEIN Intercepts

Trawler RHEIN of Wesermunde intercepted. Too rough to board. Prize to Harsten escorted by IMOGEN, 1604/20)

War Office

Intelligence report, for MAURICE and SICKLE, (Major G.S., 2121/20)

Destroyer?

Probably German entering Hardanger Fiord from Heroyspen at 1150 (Norway H.Q. 1257/20 to Admiralty)

Convoy of about 20 vessels with escort observed yesterday 9/4 West of Hons steaming southwards. Heavy explosion heard and flames seen. Observer believes vessels were Norwegian (Gothenburg 1340/20)

Large merchant ship reported by aircraft in vicinity of J S J V 0225 at 1545 (V.A.S., to submarines on patrol 1514/20

Drifting mines, presumably from original German declared area (R.A.S., 1719/20)

German Landing

Germans have landed in Uskedal in Hardanger Fiord, 59° 56' N., 5° 48' E (Arm I/C West Coast, via Bergen Radio recd. 0610/20, D.C., 0900/20)

German force 12 vessels, destroyer, M.T.B's and trawlers, now operating in Outer Hardanger Fiord. Possible minelaying (B.2) (D.C., 6900/20)

75 Ships of 2/3000 tons assembled near Rock of Christ of Christianso, N.E. Bomholm. Concentration was 25 strong yesterday 19th reported by air observation. (Stockholm, T.O.O./20)

From Norwegian Naval source, Bergen, 2 German submarines Sogne Fiord south entrance, estimated laying mines 18/4. Hardanger Fiord 2 German motor launches 18/4. Bergen 1 German cruiser, 1 Ammunition ship, with neutral ships along side. (C.S.20, 1219/20)

Destroyer probably German entering Hardanger Fiord from Heroyspen at 1150 (Norway H.Q., 1259/20)

War Diary

20.4.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping Contd.

Convoys Positions

(D.C., 1816/20)

F.N. 51

Cancelled (C. in C., Nore., 1811/20)

H.X.

Arrived with ROCHESTER (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1350/20)

Miscellaneous

Shortage of A/A Ammunition

Heavy recent expenditure of destroyer long range AA ammunition Reserve small. Expenditure on recent scale must be curtailed. Action has been taken to accelerate supply. (1st. S.L. 0003/20 to C. in C., H.F.)

A/A Battery

s.s. BELLEROPHON embarking A/A Battery of house and required to sail for Clyde 26/4 C. in C., W.A. toprovide escort. (D.O.D. (H) 1756/20)

WEATHER

0500	Wind	Visibility
North Sea	Light & Variable	Moderate
Channel	S. to S.W. Moderate	Moderate
W. Approaches	Moderate	Moderate

Enemy Intelligence

Cruiser

Re Portishead Radio 1056/19 Cruiser is probably BREMSE. Air reconnaissance arranged (D.C. 0252/20)

Norwegian report. About 12 German destroyers, M.T.B's and trawlers now operating in outer Hardanger Fiord, seems to be a mineship among them (Portishead Radio 0510/20)

Reported that German force 12 vessels destroyers, M.T.B's and Trawlers are now operating in Hardanger Fiord. possibly minelaying. BZ. Germans also reported to have landed at Uskedal 59° 56'N 5° 48'E in Hardanger Fiord. (D.C. 0900/20 to H.Q. C. in C.,)

War Diary

20.4. 1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

20th D.F.

Following from Capt. (D) 20:-
Any reports of recent operations that may be received from ships of 20th D.F. are to be forwarded immediately to D.D.O.M. (M) Admty. (D.D.O.D.(M) 1323/20 to EXPRESS and ESK)

Hardanger Fiord.

A German force operating this morning in the outer Hardanger Fiord is suspected of minelaying. (I.C., 0426/40)

Harhams Fiord

Reported that four parachute mines may have been dropped at Eastern end of Harhams Fiord, 62° 38' N., 6° 14' E. (I.C., 0426/40)

Bergen

German minefield is reported near Bergen at junction of Sor Fiord and Oster Fiord, 60° 32'N., 5° 20' E. (I.C., 0426/40)

Lister Light

At 0640, a German aircraft reported "mines broken loose from their moorings, 10 miles S. of Lister Light to 10 miles West" (I.C., 0426/40)

Drifting Mines

Large number of drifting mines between 58° N., 06° E, and Norwegian Coast, presumably from original German declared area. (R.A.S., 1719/20)

Shipping

Downs Traffic Stopped

In view of aircraft minelaying attackss on Downs this evening intend stopping all traffic until full information as to positions of mines dropped has been obtained (V.A. Dover, 2254/20)

U.S. Ships

FLYING FISH, MORMACSEA, CHARLES R. Mc. CORMICK, at Bergen and Trondheim, intend sail for U.S.A., Not to be intercepted. (D.T.D., 1258/20)

Faroes, Ships and Flag

Your 0027/19. As a matter of principle we cannot give immunity to any ship flying Danish flag, ask Consul to arrange with Faroese authorities for early introduction of Faroese flag and arrange for separate register of Faroese vessels if not already in existance. Pending establishment of Faroese flag, vessels not to be diverte or detained solely because wearing Danish flag. (Hd. of M. 0205/20 to V.A. N. P.)

HOME COMMANDS, AIR

Attack on German Ships Contd.

Lervik, Hardanger Fiord., etc., reconnoitred. One M.T.B. attacked 1715 in 60° 12' N., 5° 12' E. without result. No sign of activity ashore. No merchant ships seen except in Bergen. (Hatston, 2044/20)

1 large M.V. 8000-10000 tons stationary in Mandal harbour, 1300 (Donibristle 1700/20)

Area to Attack Aircraft

Admiralty, 1642/11/3. Following has been issued by Air Ministry to all R.A.F. Commands: Area of sea over which fighters and ships may fire at sight by night at aircraft burning navigation lights is to be extended southward and westward as far as long 2 degrees west in the English Channel with effect from 2000 hours 20/4. Area over which friendly aircraft are to fly with navigation lights extinguished is therefore the North Sea east of long. 4 degrees West and the English Channel o: long. 2 deg. West. (D. of L.D., 1634/20)

Security Patrols

In view of heavy mining activity by German aircraft in Thames estuary on night 17/18 April Admty. request that security patrols be recommended. Undesirable to recommence these in view of bombing effort required in Scandinavia. At your discretion you should, however, arrange for returning gardeners to visit enemy seaplane bases in Heligoland Bight and attack with machine gun fire seaplanes or flare paths. (Air Ministry, 1505/20, to Bomber Command)

Kite-Flying

Embarrassment caused by vessels in coastal waters flying kites up to 1,500 ft. Ship kites not to be flown above 1,000 ft. Lethal device not to be brought into operation in coastal waterss unless aircraft in vicinity identified as enemy. Other provisions. Air Ministry, 2045/20)

Cruiser Aircraft

Ships of 1st C.S. and 18th C.S. to take first opportunity of embarking full set of aircraft (C. in C., H.F. 2344/20)

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

AUCKLAND, Contd.	aircraft bombing (AUCKLAND, 1237/20 1311/20)
	Have engaged 9 enemy aircraft between 1100 and 1330, 9 bombs dropped. 1 aircraft believed Junkers 88 shot down and 2nd aircraft reported after attack. Am salving former. No casualties in AUCKLAND- Enemy bombing (AUCKLAND 1814/ 20)
C.S. 20.	Enemy aircraft bombing (C.S.20 1131/20) 14 bombs, no hits (C.S.20, 1307/20) 38 bombs so far, no hits. (C.S. 20, no T.0.0./20, 1419/20, 1503/20
Convoy	Convoy ARENA being shadowed by enemy aircraft. (BREDA 1145/20)
GROM	Polish destroyer GROM, enemy aircraft bombing (GROM, 1157/20) large explosion seen, considered big torpedo. (GROM, 1215/20)
BEAGLE	6 aircraft (BEAGLE 1506/20)
BLACK SWAN	Enemy bombing (BLACK SWAN, 1520/20)
WESTMINSTER	3 aircraft (WESTMINSTER, 1550/20, 1610/ 20, 1611/20, 1630/20, 1730/20.
WOOLSTON	Enemy aircraft (WOOLSTON 2355/20)
WOLSEY	Convoy Agent (even numbered F.N. Convoy) is being attacked by enemy aircraft. My position 130° 8 miles from Goss Sand. (WOLSEY 0058/21)
Reports on aircraft Sighted	Concur with C. in C., W.A's 1754/18 and recommend that the proposals in Western Approaches message 1939 of 22/3 be brought into force. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1933/20)
	British Air Activity
Attack on German Ships	Admiralty 0252/20 (1 enemy cruiser, possibly BREMSE, and 1 destroyer at Lervik) Skuas of 800 and 801 squadrons leave Hatston to attack at 1430 (A.C.O.S. 1321/20)
	12 Skuas left Hatston 1445 to attack enemy ships at Lervik. One left formation at 1527 and has not returned.

Lervik/

War Diary

20.4.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

Enemy Air Activity

Usual activity over Norway, various long distance reconnassance flights carried out. Special attention was paid to Romsdal Fiord area and several reports as to surface craft were signalled back and also various reports of attacks having been made, several of which were amplified "without success" Considerable activity in area Christianssand S. to Bergen. (H.Q.C.C. 1711/20)

Army co operation aircraft cannot be provided for some days. Arrange with S.N.O. for any air reconnaissance you may need. (D.C., from War Office to AUCKLAND for Gen. de Wiart 2118/20)

CARLISLE

Has developed leak in starboard condenser from near miss during bombing today. (C.S.20, 2242/20) See also Aandalsnes

BLACK SWAN
AUCKLAND

Bombed, see Aandalsnes.

GROM

Attacked at 1157 (no details) (L.C. 0427/40)

EMILE BERTIN

Bombed off Namsos at 1800/19. No casualties. (D.C., 0823/20) One bomb passed through ship and exploded under water. Ship requires docking and electrical repairs. was able to steam to Scapa at 26 knots. (C. in C., H.F. 2254/20)

Enemy Air Craft Reports

ASHANTI

Heminjoil factory at Heroeysund in Hardanger being bombed (Bergan Radio) 0645, Portishead Radio, 0747/20) Seaplan reconnoitring Aalesund, intence reconnaissance activity, ASHANTI, 0832/20, 0834/20, 0848/20, 1056/20, 1129/20, 1155/20)

MOHAWK

Am being shadowed by aircraft (MOHAWK, 0940/20)

AUCKLAND

Enemy aircraft bombing (AUCKLAND, 1112/20, 1140/20) "Bombed again, have shot him down" (AUCKLAND 1225/20) Enemy

air/

War Diary

20.4.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air Attack

Christiansand Sound

Six Wellington aircraft attacked Christiansand South aerodrome on night of 20/21, and all dropped bombs from 5/6,000 ft. Bursts were seen on the ground and a good fire left burning. 30 to 40 enemy aircraft were seen on the ground. No enemy opposition was encountered.

Stavanger

Aerodrome was raided by two Wellingtons at 2320/20. Bombs dropped by 1 aircraft from 8/6000 feet was seen to burst at the south end of the aerodrome. No enemy action was encountered.

An attack was also made by aircraft while returning from an attempt to locate Oslo which proved impossible owing to low clouds. Six 250-lb bombs dropped, violent explosions noted, and three distinct fires started. A barrage of 3 balloons at 12,000 ft. was observed 7½ miles west of the aerodrome, and altogether 12 balloons were seen. (Donibristle, 0605/21)

Aalborg (Denmark)

One Wellington aircraft on night of 20/21 attacked Aalborg aerodrome and dropped stick of six bombs from 800 ft on the hangar. A large transport aircraft was observed and chased until disappeared in clouds. Attack took aerodrome by surprise and no enemy action was encountered. A second attack was made by a single Wellington which was over the area at 2230/2240 but unable to identify the target. Heavy but inaccurate A/A and M/G fire was encountered and about 20 searchlights were used by the enemy. (H.Q., B.C., 0215/21, 0240/21, 0245/21, 0515/21, 0530/21)

Troop Convoys.

~~T.P. 2.~~

T.P. 1.

T.M.1.

My 1200/20 French destroyers now with F.P.2. have been ordered to return to France. Request you will provide escort. Convoy T.P.I. is cancelled. Convoy T.M.1 will probably sail for Aandalsnes tomorrow, 21/4. (D.O.D.(H), to C. in C., H.F.)

War Diary

20.4.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

Troop Convoys

F.S. 1. — Sailed for Scapa escorted by MILAN and BOULANAIS. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0829/20)

F.P. 2. — To be sailed for Namsos as soon as Oerlikon battery is embarked. It may be necessary to divert convoy to Scapa. (D.O.D. (H) 1300/20)

F.P. 1. — Position. Expect arrive Sullom Voe 1800/21 (CAIRO, 0953/20) Has insufficient fuel to reach Scapa. Am escorting them to Sullom Voe and the proceeding Scapa. (F.O.C. 18 C.S., 2205/20)

At 1300/19, MAILLE BREZE was ordered to remain in vicinity of U-boat which had attacked Convoy F.P.I. in 64° 50' N 07° 53' E. Since then no communication with her. Request all ships keep lookout. (EMILE BERTIN, 0845/20)

Your 0845/20. Nothing wrong. MAILLE BREZE now convoying F.P.I. in company with TARTU (MAILLE BREZE to EMILE BERTIN 1301/20)

CHOBRY — Probably required to sail for Namsos with force H.D., M 8 divers, vertical units and R.M. Howitzer Battery p.m. 22/4 (D. of P. 2039/20)

British Submarines

TRIAD — Reported at 1100/20 having heard one hit after attack on a convoy of 3 ships All Torpedoes expended. Depth charged but undamaged. (TRIAD, 1100/20) to return to base, (R.A.S., 2223/20)

German Ships

For information, reported German s.s. SIMON VON UTRECHT with 6000 tons of coal is lying off Geromstad waiting to go into Oslo. (R.A.S., 1323/20) (Other reports- see Enemy Intelligence)

For information. Concentration of soldiers ready to go on board ships reported at Frederikshaven (V.A.S., 1541/20)

SWORDFISH — Hunt being done from dawn by aircraft, five A/S vessels and one large escort vessel. Attacked convoy, course 015° at 1300, no explosion heard. Hunted by escort until dusk, position believed S C D 4513, no serious damage. (SWORDFISH 20 00/20

War Diary

20.4.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Molde

Resources. Wharf and harbour resources, ferry steamers, etc. details. (S.N.O. Molde 1240/20, 2315/20).

Are you in L/T communication with Aalesund Radio, which is working with Wick Radio ? (D.S.D. to S.N.O. Molde, 0008/21).

ASHANTI's 1640. There is not any fuel oil in area Christiansand North to Aalesund. Norwegian Navy and commerce use Diesel oil and gas oil. (S.N.O. Molde 1200/20).

Watching System. Primrose Post Watching System covering Fiord and approaches to Christiansand North and to Aalesund has been in operation 2 days and is improvised. Numerous U-boat sightings reported, few of which are credible. (Examples of most reliable).
I am convinced no U-boats have been in Miljord, Julsundet, and Romsdal Fiord since Primrose arrived. (S.N.O. Molde, 1000/20).

Trondheim

Operation Hammer.

Blockade. Orders in sense of D.C.N.S.2120/19. 2 destroyers to maintain patrol. ASHANTI, MOHAWK may be used (C.in C. H.F. 0119/20 to R.A.D. H.F.)

Enemy air bases. Uncompleted seaplane base on south of Mitteren Island about long. 09°07'E. Other German air preparations. (D.N.A.D. to H.Q. C.C. 0733/20).

Hammer Cancelled. Operation Hammer is cancelled. Preliminary orders for revised operation are contained in my 0226/20. (D.O.D.(H) 1140/20 to C.in C. H.F.)

Enemy Supplies. Reported from good Norwegian source that Trondheim is short of food and ammunition. (Brit.Minister, Stockholm, No.315/20/4).

French Force. No. 1073. General Gamelin has pointed out to British General Staff that it appeared essential to control passes in the mountain range between Trondheim and Lillehammer. Also suggested that this operation might be carried out by your force which is particularly well suited for mountain warfare. (F.N.L.O. to CURLEW, from French Military Attache to General Audet, 1800/20).

Destroyer Patrols. ASHANTI and MOHAWK to patrol in Trondheim Leden to prevent reinforcements reaching enemy at Trondheim. SOMALI and TARTAR arrive Ursakvaag Fiorden, 63°40'N, 09°15'E, at dusk tomorrow to establish patrol there. (R.A.D.H.F.2354/20).

War Diary

20.4.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aandalsnes - Operation Sickle

Army Forces. Major General Paget has assumed command Sickle Force which is being reinforced forthwith by 15th Infantry Brigade. Brigadier Smyth, of which first 2000 men arrive Aandalsnes ex H.M.Ships evening 23rd. (Admty.2050/20 for Sickle Force from War Office).

From General Paget. My intentions first secure Aandalsnes-Dombass and L. of C. connecting them against threats from sir Oslo, Trondheim. Second, assist Norwegians Oslo direction by operating down Lillehammer and Osterdaalen Valleys. My eventual plan that you in western, Smyth in eastern valleys. Roles of Smyth's brigade given him today first secure Aandalsnes in cooperation Primrose; secon, secure Dombass, thus freeing you third move a detachment block Osterdaalen Valley from south. (Gen. Paget, to Brig.Morgan, Sickle Force, 2122/20).

Net Defences. GUARDIAN to load special equipment to lay at Aandalsnes and subsequently at Molde if required. Net defences for Namsos being dealt with last (D.B.D. 1746/20).

Convoy. A/A Defence CURACOA CURACOA ordered to give A/A protection to troop convoy escorted by JACKAL and JAVELIN proceeding Aandalsnes, and remain in that area as A/A guard ship. CARLISLE return to Scapa on arrival of CURACOA or earlier if fuel or ammunition require. (C.in C. H.F. 2311/20).

ARETHUSA To convoy troops and stores for Sickle and Primrose and H.A. ammunition for sloops to Romdals Fiord, and return Rosyth when disembarkation complete. (F.O.C. 2 C.S. 2235/20).

Primrose Suspended. My 2319/18, para.C, amended orders of Primrose. No further action is to be taken with regard to this operation pending further instructions. (D.O.D.(H) 1138/20).

Molde.

Local Situation. Following from Captain Denny at Molde:-
Only communication is by telephone which is unreliable and compromised. Have no code or cypher and no staff. Consider Molde would make suitable base for A/S vessels. Am operating three Norwegian M.T.Bs. in area Aalesund to Budiet. Have taken steps to acquire nine local trawlers. Molde evacuated and locals very frightened. Large numbers of semi-Nazi sympathisers in area and all stories of German Forces greatly exaggerated. Norwegian Forces require to be considerably energised. Requisition of ships and stores easy now but financial arrangements will have to be made soon. (ends).
Your 0240/20, para.(11). Additional information about jetties, etc., reported by ARETHUSA. (C.S.2 to Admty. 1022/20).

War Diary 20.4.40.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aandalsnes, Aalesund, Molde.

FLAMINGO)
BITTERN) To sail from Scapa as escort for Convoy T.M.1 GUARDIAN and MASONA. BLACK SWAN pass to S.N.O. Molde. (D.O.D.(H) 2115/20).

Bullion Transport. 50 tons gold at Aandalsnes to be shipped England divided between 3 ships. Request instructions. (C.S.20 to Admty. 2143/20). Arrange for embarkation in H.M. ships as opportunity occurs. (Admlty.0124/31).

Transfer of Shipping
Norwegian Government. My 2143. Cabinet request immediate transport of Director of Shipping, Mr. Leventzen, to England to negotiate immediate transfer of all Norwegian shipping to Allied control. King and Government probably move to Les Javerk, 30 miles N.W. of Dombas. (C.S.20. 2229/30).

Air Attacks. CARLISLE, BLACK SWAN and AUCKLAND being heavily bombed (C.S.20.1304/20)
Aandelsnes being bombed (F.O.C. 20 C.S. 1739/20) (AUCKLAND 1637/20).
Aandalsnes bombed 3 times today, possibly because Cabinet is here. Major G.W. Beesley, R.M. wounded, taken to hospital at Molde. No other casualties. (F.O.C.20.C.B. 2233/20).
One Heinkel III damaged during attack on CARLISLE 20/4 reported crashed in mountains (Carlisle 2201/21).

Air Base. Asking exact position of frozen lake for establishment of aerodrome between Aandelsnes and Dombaas. (C.in.C. H.F. 1809/20).

Netlaying GUARDIAN and MASONA to sail from Scapa with Convoy TMI to lay nets Aandalsnes. (D.T.D.1928/20).

Sickle, Plans Admty.0226/20. Ships to embark personnel and stores as follows:-

(a) GLASGOW and SHEFFIELD, each 650 men, 70 tons of stores.

(b) GALATEA, 350 men, 30 tons of stores.

(c) 6 destroyers, each 60 men, 5 tons of stores.

In addition, 4 Bofors guns in s.s. ORION to be embarked as ordered by C.S.2 Naval Base Staff will proceed Aandalsnes in a subsequent flight.
Ships to arrive Romsdals Fiord at dusk and disembark troops and stores during night. They are to sail at daylight even if disembarkation is incomplete. (D.of P.1705/20).

War Diary

20.4.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aalesnes (Operation Sickle).

Operation Sickle (reinforced). My 1140/20 and 0226/20. It is intended to land a considerable force in Aalesnes area with ultimate object of capturing Trondheim in conjunction with Wiart's force at Namsos. Two Brigades originally allocated to Hamner will be landed in Aalesnes area so as to gain control of Dombass area and isolate Trondheim from south. Further troops will follow.
This operation will still be referred to as Sickle.
First Brigade will probably land p.m./23 and p.m./25. Immediate steps are being taken to obtain small transports suitable for entering the fiords. Meanwhile H.M.ships must be used for transporting troops.
(D.C.N.S.1731/20 to C.in C. H.F.)
C.in C. H.F. to detail cruisers and destroyers to transport a second force of 2000 men and 200 tons stores from Rosyth to Romsdale Fiord to arrive dusk 25/4 or earliest date after.
(D.C.N.S.2246/21).

Reliefs. Admty.2114. PELICAN detailed for Aandalsnes, FLEETWOOD for Namsos, leaving Rosyth about 0100/2:
(C.in C. Rosyth 2220/20. Sail BLACK SWAN for Rosyth (D.O.D.(H) 2220/20 to C.S.20).

Local Conditions. Aandalsnes berthing facilities. W/T conditions at Romsdal Fiord. Effective communication on H.F. between Aandalsnes and England using the portable sets at present supplied very doubtful owing to close screening by mountings. (C.S.2. 1023/20) A/A defences by ships, gunnery exercise difficult. R direction-finding useless. (F.O. 20 C.S. 1346/20).

Cabinet meeting. Am attending a meeting of Ministers at Aandalsnes today. Have ordered ships to withdraw so as not to endanger them by attracting bombers. Ships are sole target.
(C.S.20, 1428/20).

Local Resources. Admty 2304/19. Local resources at quay, rolling stock, A.R.P. etc. About 1000 men and stores can be disembarked each night.
(Primrose 1901/20).

Air Attack. Aandalsnes being bombed (F.O. 20 C.S. 1739/20).

War Diary

20.4.1940
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Aandalsnes

Captain Denny
General Morgan.

Operation Primrose.

Reinforcements. Force of 2000 men and 200 tons stores to be transported from Rosyth to Aandalsnes to arrive p.m. 23/4. Embark a.m. /21. 2 cruisers of 18th C.S., 1 of 2nd C.S., 6 destroyers to be detailed. This is in addition to requirement in my 1422/19 and 1938/19 (A.C.N.S.(A)0226/20.) GALATEA detailed for duties in 0226/20. ARETHUSA for duties in 1422/19, 1938/19 (C.S.2.1101/20 to Adty.)
My 2319/18 para 6. (amended orders of Primrose). No further action is to be taken with regard to this operation pending further instructions (D.O.D.(H)1138/20 to BLACK SWAN, S.N.O. Molde, PRIMROSE.)

CARLISLE Andalsnes arrival F.O.C.20 C.S. in CARLISLE. (BLACK SWAN 0900/20).

Landing Facilities. Immediate information required re landing facilities at Aandalsnes, Molde, Romsdalfiord, Langfiord and Fannefiord. (D. of P.0240/20 to BLACK SWAN for S.N.O. Molde).

Reply (C.S.2 1023/20).

Oil Supplies. ASHANTI's 1640. No fuel oil in area Christiansand north to Aalesund. Norwegian Navy and commerce use Diesel oil and gas oil. (S.N.O. Molde to BLACK SWAN, C.in C. H.F. etc. 1200/20).

Local Craft. Admty.2319/18. Details of fishing craft, ferry steamers etc. at Aalesund, Christiansand and Molde. In view of continuous enemy air observation, have not concentrated all ships as this will betray operation and provoke bombing, which has already happened at Molde. (S.N.O. Molde 1240/20).

Shore Resources Admty.2304/19. Details of railway rolling stock, labour, etc. About 1000 men and stores can be disembarked each night. (PRIMROSE 1901/20).

PRIMROSE, SICKLE. Your 2220/19. War Office have agreed to maintain Force PRIMROSE in conjection with Force SICKLE. Your requirements for seaboots, boots and cash will be forwarded from Rosyth. (D.of P. 1933/20 to PRIMROSE). Order of priority for personnel and stores (D.of P.1401/20).

Reliefs, Escort Vessels. Request 2 sloops from Rosyth Escort Force relieve BLACK SWAN at Aandalsnes and AUCKLAND at Namsos. Ship detailed for Aandalsnes is to embark Trebizond Naval Base Staff and stores ex s.s. ORION. (D.O.D.(H) 2114/20 to C.in C. Rosyth)

War Diary.

20.4.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Norway - Air Protection

AUCKLAND ordered to afford A/A protection.
(D.O.D.(H) 1958/20).

NUBIAN is on her way to Namsos now.
(F.O.C. 18 C.S. 2012/20).

Last night and today experience Namsos shows that unless some form of air protection or support is provided the situation will become untenable. Very heavy air attacks were made on convoy entering last night and S.O. A/S trawlers today reports situation as desperate through continuous bombing. Immediate action is (group omitted).
(C.S.18. 2053/20).

War Office to Carton de Wiart. Ref. 1215/20. A/A protection by ship's guns should reach you dawn 21st. Protection by planes of carrier will be given as quickly as possible. German aerodromes being bombed.
(2105/20).

RUTLANDSHIRE. Survivors still ashore at Havik, 64°30' N., 11°32' E.
Investigate and rescue if possible.
(C. in C. H.F. 1614/21 to NUBIAN).

War Diary. 20.4.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Namsos.

Convoys. CALCUTTA to reach entrance to Namsos Fjord with convoy at 2030/20.
(C.S. 18, 0940/20).

BIRMINGHAM to make contact with CALCUTTA and VILLE D'ALGER and cover them towards Namsos.
(C.S. 18, 1141/20).

Your 1431/20 and my 1507/20. If fuel situation necessitates turn short of your destination and leave VILLE D'ALGER with CALCUTTA. No fuel at Namsos.
(C.S. 18 to BIRMINGHAM 1839/20).

From Capt. Castagnei, Liaison Officer with RUPERT, to General Audet. Landed Monday 15th with Avonforce H.Q. No communication with you possible since leaving England till today. Am awaiting further instructions from you in view of new situation.
(From War Office to CAIRO for Maurice 1524/20).

Collier BALMAHA to go to Welljel Fjord, not Namsos for use of 21st and 23rd A/S forces. Destination BLACK HEATH remains Namsos.
(C. in C. H.F. 2346/20).

Namsos - Air Protection.

GLORIOUS, ARK ROYAL. My 1939/18, 1954/19 and 1422/19. GLORIOUS and ARK ROYAL should sail for Scapa tomorrow as arranged. Air Ministry will report shortly when they expect frozen lake in lat.62°14'N., long. 8°22' E. to be ready for reception of R.A.F. Gladiator Sqdn., which will not be before dawn on Thursday 25/4. All R.A.F. pilots have position of the lake marked on their maps.
(D.N.A.D. 1920/20.

Air Attack on Namsos.

RUTLANDSHIRE sunk. Namsos in flames. Trawlers under my command continuously bombed by enemy a/c since 1000/20. 1 trawler (RUTLANDSHIRE) hit and driven ashore. Others very short of ammunition. Request support if at all possible.
(S.O. 23rd Group A/S Vessels - Scapa intercept 1300/20).
Situation now desperate. Require immediate assistance, being continually bombed.
(S.O. 23rd Group, Scapa intercept 1730/20).

War Diary. 20.4.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Hamnes.

(C.S.18 Gen. Wiart).

BIRMINGHAM — Proceed with despatch to escort Convoy FP 1 which sailed from Namsos (empty) for Sullom Voe 0500/20 escorted by TARTU and CHEVALIER PAUL.
(C. in C. H.F. 0554/20).

A/A Defences. — Your 1304/20. (See Aandalsnes). Until shore A/A defences are installed we must protect the landing places at Namsos, Molde and Aandalsnes, but ships should not remain at other places during hours of daylight unless there are strong military reasons for doing so.
(1st S.L. to C.S.20 1706/20).

AUCKLAND
BLACK SWAN — Your 1329/20. Estimated 600 rounds by 23/4 at present rate of expenditure. (AUCKLAND to C. in C. Rosyth 1745/20.) Rate of expenditure (BLACK SWAN 1530/20). Namsos area, relief for (D.O.D.(H) 2114/20). (See also Aandalsnes.)
Ordered to proceed to Namsos to afford A/A protection at that port.
(D.O.D.(H) 1958/20).

A/A Groups. — 21st and 23rd A/A Groups proceed up the Indroled to Lillesjona anchorage 66°15'N., 13°35' E.
(C. in C. H.F. 2019/20).

Reconnaissance Aircraft. — To 1000/20. War Office to Maurice and Sickle.
(Major G.S. 1355/20).

Troop Arrivals. — Troops disembarked. 2 transports completely cleared of stores and two part cleared
(CAIRO 0230/20.)
Your 0629/20. Following received from F.O.French EL DJEZAIR :-
Convoy arrived undamaged and expects to leave Fjord 0500/20.
(F.O. EMILE BERTIN 0913/20).

War Diary

20.4.40
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik

— Enemy Supplies. From War Office for Machesney: Intelligence report to 1800/20, Narvik area, enemy reported being supplied by parachute with stores and provisions. (D. of P. 2116/20 to F.O. Narvik.)

Railway Impasse. Stockholm report, tunnels on Narvik railway undamaged. Rombalen viaduct standing but damaged. (C.2). (D.D.I.C. to F.O. Narvik 2355/20).

RESOLUTION, WARSPITE. RESOLUTION to sail for Narvik when ready, to act under orders of F.O. Narvik, but not to enter West Fjord unless required for an operation.

WARSPITE returns Scapa on arrival of RESOLUTION. (C. in C. H.F. 0013/21).

Hospital Carrier. Sail hospital carrier ISLE OF JERSEY forthwith to Vaags Fjord, 68° 45' N., 16°50' W., to evacuate all sick and wounded to Aberdeen. Ship to be routed west of long. 03° W. till north of lat. 65° N. (C. in C. H.F. 0952/20).

Your 0952. ISLE OF JERSEY at economical steaming uses 2½ tons per hour, total capacity full 125 tons. Operation is not possible without special arrangements for fuelling. (N.O.I.C., Aberdeen 1557/20).
Cancel my 0952/20. (C. in C. H.F. 1925/21).

Wounded. My 1941/20, departures from Skjelfjord. All wounded fit to travel were sent in BRITISH LADY, 13 in number. 3 officer prisoners of war sent in PUNJABI. (PENELOPE 2247/20).

Mining. Possible that parachute mines have been dropped in Harfiums Fjord, 62° 38' N., 6° 14' E.
(D.D.I.C. 2012/20).

Your telegram No. 28 of 19/4. As far as can be ascertained, Sogne Fjord is not mined.
(Norwegian HQ. to Admty. 2050/20.)

War Diary

20.4.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik.

Lord Cork
General Mackesey

FURIOUS aircraft attack.	Your 2302/19. Weather forecast bad for flying. Have only 9 aircraft left. Will not send aircraft unless you urgently request (FURIOUS 0250/20 to F.O. Narvik). Glad if in conjunction with attacks on railways you can search fiords in vicinity here and West Fjord for enemy naval forces (F.O.Narvik to FURIOUS, 1023/30).
Oil.	Oil lighter and possibly small commercial oil stock reported to be at Stolvoer 68°16'N. 14°33'E. (F.O.C.1 C.S. 0819/20) to C.in C. H.F.)
B.C.S. at Vaags Fiord.	Expected time of arrival at Vaags Fiord 1900 today (REPULSE to F.O. Narvik 0753/20). Position (F.O.C.B.C.S.1116/20).
Joint Plan	Is being prepared. Will report more fully after reconnaissance of Narvik which I hope to make today. 24 hours delay owing to warship in which embarked having to be diverted to urgent naval duties. (Gen.Mackesey to Admiralty and W.O. 0918/20).
Air Search	Glad if in conjunction with attacks on railways you can search fiords in vicinity here and West Fiord for enemy naval forces. (F.O.Narvik to FURIOUS 1023/20).
R.M.landings.	R.M. detachments to be prepared to land at short notice during coming week. AURORA to receive marines from PENELOPE and EFFINGHAM those of SOUTHAMPTON. (F.O.Narvik 1401/20).
Personnel situation, Primrose.	Personnel situation is very bad. Sickle having moved inland, Primrose is dealing with Army question: whole force, contains no clerks, so all work is at present done by C.O., Adjutant, and I am urgently requiring R.M.Officers four clerks, four signallers, etc. (Primrose, Narvik 1030/20)
Hospital Accommodation	Arranged at Harsted for your wounded. (F.O.Narvik to B.C.S. 1411/20).
Destroyers	Request your total requirements in Narvik area (C.in C. H.F. to F.O. Narvik, 1459/20).
Air Photographs.	Large scale obliques of coast from Framnesodden to Taraldsvil on Narvik promontory urgently required. Photographs already taken not received. (F.O. Narvik to FURIOUS, 1419/20).
	Machine on photo reconnaissance to pass EFFINGHAM 0345/21 and drop photographs. (FURIOUS 2115/20).

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

REPULSE — Return to Scapa. My instructions to you were to cover F.P.1. (C.in C. H.F.1507/20).

GLORIOUS / ARK ROYAL — Should sail for Scapa tomorrow Sunday as previously arranged. (D.N.A.D.1920/20).

ESCORT — Sailed for Narvik 0400. 22nd A/S Group sailed from Lerwick 0825. (N.O.I.C.Lerwick 0830/20).

Submarines. — Positions 0600/21 (R.A.S.1618/20) (D.C.1909/20)

Operations.

Tromso.

Hospitals — At Tromso, and details of accommodation for war casualties. (F.O.C. 1 C.S.1037/20).

Faroes.

Air Bases. — Lack of sites and flying boat bases (R.A.F.Faroes 1705/20).

War Diary

20.4.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

British Air Activity

An attack with six aircraft on Christiansand South is considered to have been successful. Reports have come in from three of the six aircraft which raided Aalburg. Only one of these found its target and released six bombs. Owing to bad weather only one of the 12 aircraft which attacked Stavanger aerodrome completed its task.

Mediterranean Situation

Owing to the uncertain attitude of Italy, ROYAL SOVEREIGN has been diverted to Gibraltar from mid-Atlantic. MALAYA is also proceeding to the Mediterranean on Monday.

A report was received from an Imperial Airways aircraft that a submarine was seen to crash-dive 200 miles N.W. of Alexandria at 2100/19. No British submarine is known to have been in this area at that time.

War Diary. 20.14.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Situation Report.

Narvik area.

REPULSE with FRANCONIA and 2 destroyers arrived p.m. FURIOUS continued air reconnaissance. One A/C made a forced landing, leaving 9 aircraft serviceable.
WARSPITE and escort returned to Narvik.

Namsos Area.

Disembarkation of the French troops from all 4 transports of the 1st French Convoy was completed during the night 19/20. The transports sailed at 0500/20 escorted by cruiser TARTU and 1 destroyer.
The second French convoy was due in Clyde am/20.

Aalesund, Andalnes, Molde.

BLACK SWAN is at Molde, preparing for a possible landing of a small force of R.M. at Vinje.

Enemy Air Activity.

Apart from attacks on the Norwegian Coast, already mentioned, a large number of X raids took place between 2030/20 and midnight off S.E. Coast. These are believed to have been for laying magnetic mines, and traffic through the Downs and North Edinburgh Channel has been suspended.

A convoy, F.N.50, was attacked off the Cross Sand Light Vessel at 2200/20. No hits were reported. Five moored mines have been exploded off Coquet Island, also one magnetic mine in the Sunk area and one off the North Foreland.

British S/M Attacks.

At 2000/20, SWORDFISH reported having unsuccessfully attacked a convoy 20 miles south of Oslo Fiord. She was severely hunted, but sustained no serious damage.

At 2300/20, TRIAD reported having attacked a convoy of 3 ships and heard one hit. TRIAD is now returning to her base, having expended all torpedoes.

Enemy S/M Attacks on Shipping.

Two merchant ships, HAWNBY, outward bound with coal, and MERSEY, have been mined in the Thames Estuary. Two of the crew of the MERSEY were killed, and 11 are missing. The crew of HAWNBY were rescued by M.T.B.

War Diary

21.4.40
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

CEDAR BANK — British, 5,159 tons, under charter to H.M. Govt. Torpedoed and sunk 243° 63°N. 5°E. 12 miles at 0635. (JACKAL 0656/21). 0640/21.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C. 1227/21).

0009 — 57° 31'N., 04° 20'E., 80 m. S.W. from Egersund, Norway. Reported by A/C.

0645 — 60° 36'N. 05° 30' W. 120 m. N. of Cape Wrath. Reported by H.M. A/S LE TIGER. (D.O.I.C. 1008/21) LE TIGER 0715/21.

0656 — 62° 54' N. 4° 36' E. by JACKAL (D.D.I.C. 0842/21, C.B.20, 1706/21).

1224 — D.F. unreliable fix 60° 30' N., 2° W. (D.D.I.C. 1247/21).

1730 — Am over enemy S/M in position 170 Fair Isle. (A/C shore-based 1730/21).

1410 — 2 s/m's sighted by French ORPHEE 57° 00' N. 05° 00' E.

Submarines Attacked.

0009 — By A/C MBOX 3120 (A/C 233 Sqdrn. 0009/21)

1200 — By AUCKLAND 64° 30' N. 9° 47' E. (60 m. w. of Namsos) (I.C. 0428/40)
No visible result (Auckland 2004/21) (ASWD. 231)

2317 — By BLACK SWAN 60° 32' N. 0° 19' W. (I.C. 0428/40)
No result - still hunting (Black Swan 2317/21) (ASWD. 231).

0645 — A/S Tr. LE TIGER attacked s/m seen on surface by d.c's. 60° 36'N. 5° 30' W. (I.C. 0428/40).

1400 — By French s/m ORPHEE 57° N. 5° E. 2 submarines sighted on surface. Estimates 2 hits. (I.C. 0430/40) After 4 minutes nothing could be seen from periscope observation. She considers attack successful. (D.C.M.S. 234).

War Diary.

21.4.40
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

JURGEN FRITZEN	4,465 tons, from Stettin to Stockholm with coal, reported sunk near Landoort, south of Stockholm.

War Diary. 21.4.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd)

	NORAVIND should load at Trinidad for Takoradi (D. of S.T.1114/21 to C-in-C. A.W.I.).
Curacao - Aruba Force.	My 1127/20. Composition of regular force available for despatch at Jamaica, approx. 4 officers and 100 men. (C.in-C. A.W.I. 1453/21).

Australia.

Convoy U.S.2.	Arrived (N.O.I.C. Freemantle, 0220Z/21).

War Diary. 21.4.40
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic

French Forces.	Positions, convoys and patrols 1300/21 (D.C.0027/21).
	" " " (D.C.2308/21).
Las Palmas Air Activity.	Asking for information re aircraft works at Gondo aerodrome under German supervision. (D.N.I.1910/21). Reply: Normal progress only, no building construction. (Consul, Las Palmas 1045/23).
Straits A/S Patrol.	Your 1650/19 provision of escorts for capital ships arriving and convoy requirements necessitate temporary reduction in intensive Straits Patrol but anticipate being able to continue to maintain minimum of 5 A/S vessels in Straits (F.O.C.N.A. 1204/21).

South Atlantic

SCOTIA.	Admlt. 1236/20. Is being held pending enquiries. Reported even with armed guard there will be serious rick of losing control of vessel, master and crew strong pro-Nazis. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1036/21).

Mediterranean.

Ships not to enter Adriatic.	In view of present situation H.M. Ships should not enter Adriatic without Admiralty approval (A.C.N.S.(A) 1851/21 to C.in.C.Med.)
Italian Ships	British Overseas Airways pilot reports sighted today - At Gaeta, 7 cruisers, 6 destroyers. At Naples, 2 battleships, 6 or 8 destroyers, 8 submarines. (N.O.I. Alexandria 2001/21).
Red Sea Force.	Hay of R.A. 4th C.S. is being transferred from KENT to LIVERPOOL for duty as Senior Officer, Red Sea Force. (M.07210/40, serial No. 468).

America and West Indies.

Norwegian Ships	My 1237/20. Desired make similar test Aniba, and Norwegian tanker STORAAS, now Trinidad, should proceed Aniba to load for Bordeaux under similar conditions. (D.of S.T. 1168/21 to C.in.C.A.W.I.)

War Diary. 21.4.40.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CEDAR BANK	Torpedoed and sunk 243° 63° N 5° E 12 miles (JACKAL 0656/21)
CIRCE	Left patrol, after hydroplane out of action (CIRCE 1846/21).
CARLISLE	Damage to one condenser from near miss.

War Diary.

21.4.40
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

WEATHER (Contd)

	Wind.	Weather	Visibility.
W. Approaches.	S. to S.W., moderate to fresh.	Cloudy	Good.

Gulf of Bothnia. All coast north of Oreground blocked (by ice) even to icebrakers (Mallet, Stockholm, 1751/21).

War Diary

21.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence.

by two aircraft, passed into Hardanger Fjord 1559/21. (B.N. Mission, Norway, No. T.O.O/21).
My 1559. A further merchant ship of about 9000 tons, camouflaged, has passed up Hardanger Fiord (B.N. Mission, Norway 1707/21).

Information from Westland Walrus. Germans landed about 40 men by aircraft on Lovo Island 63° 55' N. 09° 56' E. (Nubian 2341/21)

SCHEER. Definitely not in Frederikshaven 2222 (Doni-bristle 0230/21).

Enemy war motor boats sighted near Hangesund and Bergen (R.E.5. 1714/21).

13 merchant ships, 2 cruisers and 6 destroyers reported in Great Belt 1500/21 steering North (D.N.I. 1837/22).

Miscellaneous.

Warships wearing Danish colours. To be treated as enemy being used under disguise. (Air Min. 1900/21).

Norwegian Coast. Reported that ships up to 4,000 tons can go alongside in 30 ft. water at Augvik and Sundalen in Sundalensfjord, and that anchorage exists for number of large ships at Giranger (D.N.I. 2304/21 to S.N.O. Molde).

A.A. Battery. Admlty. 2028/21. Heavy A/A Battery will not be available for embarkation until 25/4. RUTLAND will sail with light battery only (D. of L.D. 2353/21 to C. in. C. H.F.)

WEATHER.

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea.	Light and variable generally.	Cloudy (5/10-10/10), rain off Scottish Coast.	Good, local haze S.E. England.
Horns Reef Channel.	(As for North Sea) S.W. moderate to fresh.	Cloudy, mainly fair.	Good, some local mist or haze.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Continued)

Enemy aircraft mining in Downs (contd)

of mines were reported (8 in an area E. of Ramsgate and 7 in an area off Deal). In addition 6 were exploded in the Deal area. A channel round these areas is to be swept in order that traffic may be released (I.C. 0428/40).
4 mines were exploded off Coquet Island and one magnetic mine in Liverpool Bay. (D.C.N.S.231.)

On completion of present duties IVANHOE, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE to proceed Immingham to embark mines. (C.in-C. H.F. 1512/21).

Operation 2 M.A. (Minelaying off coast Norway?) Re (D.C.N.S. 2320/22)

Shipping

Norwegian Ships. Instructions superseding my 1416/18 (D.T.D.1835/21).

Convoys. Situation at 2000/21 (C.in.C. W.A. 1304/21)

Your convoy is to anchor in Dungeness Roads and await orders. (V.A.Dover 0004/21 to Whitehall)
Anchor convoy in vicinity position Y. Degaussing ships to proceed into Thames, remainder await instructions. (C.in.C.Nore 0240/21 to Woolston)

F.N.51 Cancelled (C.in.C. Rosyth 1216/21).

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

Aircraft report. Aircraft report, 2 troop transports and 7 destroyers, 58° N, 10" E. at 6500 steering N. (D.C.0310/21).

Admiral Neilson reports 1 minelayer, 3 destroyers, 5 M.T.B's, 2 submarines in Hardanger Fiord 20/4. 200 men landed Uskedal 59° 50' N. 6° E. Suspected mines laid entrance to Fiord. (N.A. Norway 0841/21).

3 enemy war motor boats 040° in position LKND 2505 (A/C 224 Sqdrn. 1500/21) 1 ditto in WPND 2220 (A/C 224, 1515/21). 1 Norwegian Merchant Ship flying German flag, escorted

by.....

HOME COMMANDS

Air. (contd.)

Convoy Attacked. Convoy Agent (even numbered FN Convoy) is being attacked by E.A.. My position 130° 8 miles from Cross Sand. (WOLSEY 0058/21) Machine gun attack,(WOLSEY 0110/21) . Enemy has withdrawn (WOLSEY 0139/21). Fighter aircraft being sent to assist (Cleethorpe Radio 0952/21). Aircraft attack FN Convoy in Outer Dowsing (WOLSEY, 0941/21). My 0941, aircraft friendly (WOLSEY, 0950/21). Convoy Agent bombed and machine gunned 0058/21 off Gt. Yarmouth. (I.C. 0427/40).

Shadowing GREYHOUND 0129/21, JACKAL 0750/21, 1020/21, MOHAWK, 0959/21).

PONTET CANET. French D.E.M.S. Machine gunned in convoy 0055 52° 42' N. 2° 10' E. No damage or casualties. (F.O. Humber I.D.5850).

LIBELLE Dutch m.v. Machine gunned 0°30, 52°35' N. 1°58' E. Mate wounded (F.O. Humber I.D.5850) Not D.E.M.S.

MINNIE DE LARRINGA. British (5048 tons) D.E.M.S. Machine gunned 0010-1940 54° 45' N. 2° 12' E. In convoy FN.50. No casualties, damage bullet marks (I.D. Form A.A.).

Minelaying. Paddle gun vessels and M.T.B, engaged several A/C's. Only mine reported is splash heard in Margate Roads but suspected areas are Kurch, Black and Barrow Deeps, and possibly off Harwich. (C.in.C. Nore 1230/21).

s.s. WESTERN PRINCE. Anchored off Edinburgh Channel Buoy Was machine gunned. Proceeded to Southend. Extensive damage but no casualties. (C.in.C. Nore 1230/21).

CURACOA. Bombed 040 XKOK 25 (Curacoa 1552/21) 8 bombs, no hit. Attack ceased. (Curacoa 1631/21).

AUCKLAND. Bombed (Auckland 1615/21) CXAQ 2830 (1612/21) 10 bombs, no hits (Auckland 1701/21.) Bombed (Auckland 1711/21, CXAQ 2830 (1710/21) 4 more bombs and machine gunned (Auckland 1722/21).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Enemy Aircraft Mining in Downs. Enemy aircrafts dropped a number of parachute mines in the Downs during night 20/21 April (I.C.0427/40) (See Shipping) 15 positions

of....

War Diary

21.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Air (contd.)

Navigation Lights — Our aircraft do not burn in N. Sea E. of 4° W. and in English Channel E of 2° W. except on return to base when near our own coast. (R.A.(S) 1902/21).

Norwegian Coast — Reconnaissance Stadlandet to Sogne Fiord and Stavanger. No balloons sighted Stavanger, no seaplanes seen in seaplane Base. No enemy ships along coast or at Hangesund, no enemy aircraft sighted (Donibristle 1710/21).

Aircraft wearing Danish markings — (a) Military aircraft. E. of 10° W. all to be treated as enemy military.
(b) Civil aircraft E of 10° W. to be treated as enemy civil. (Air Min. 1900/21).

Elbe etc. Reconnaissance — Report of M.V.s sighted (H.Q. B.C. 0810/21, 0730/21, 0645/21, 0930/21, 0405/21.

A.A. ammunition — Double outfits to be supplied for Oerlikon and Lewis guns to 12 vessels of 11th, 15th and 16th A.S.S.F. expected to sail from Aberdeen 22/4 (D.T.S.D. 1452/21).

Attack on Oslo — Target not located (Donibristle, 0557/21).

Enemy Air Activity.

AUCKLAND attacked 20/4 — Circled by bombers from 1630 to 1815. 1 attack, 2 very near misses. Details of crashed Junkers 88, after part salvaged. (AUCKLAND, 0001/21). (see 20/4)(AUCKLAND shot down one JU 88 bomber and it is believed another crashed on Norwegian occupied territory (I.C. 0427/40).

Bombing of Namsos. RUTLANDSHIRE sunk. — Namsos bombed all day yesterday. Whole town in flames. A/S trawler RUTLANDSHIRE sunk, all crew saved. General desires all ships bound for Namsos to be stopped forthwith. allied troops got clear of town before the raid. Am proceeding clear of coast pending further signal. Understand enemy are now liable to make night attack by air. (NUBIAN, 0416/21).

Your 0416. Return to Namsos and provide A.A. protection. (D.O.D.(H) 1206/21).

War Diary

21.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Operation DX

ARK ROYAL and GLORIOUS will be sent to provide fighter protection over Namsos and Aandalsnes area (see Adty. 1321/21). Will commence operations am/24 which is earliest time they can reach area. Essential to reduce destroyer escort to minimum. (C. in C., H.F. 2243/21).

Request you will consider use of carriers operating off shore to provide temporary fighter protection over Namsos and Aandalsnes until Gladiators are operating ashore. (1st S.L. 1321/21).

Please expedite and sail your force for operation DX as soon as you can. P rovision of fighter protection for our forces in Norway is urgent. (C. in C., H.F. 0006/23 to V.A.A.).

A.A. Defences — 2 U.P. batteries to be formed immediately from Nore Command for air defence of landing places against low flying aircraft. Details (D.T.S.D., D. of L.D., 1210/21).

A.A. Guardships — Urgent steps are being taken to provide proper A.A. defences at Namsos and Aandalsnes. Until installed, essential for an A.A. ship or sloop to be kept at each place. For this p purpose BLACK SWAN, AUCKLAND, PELICAN and FLEETWOOD placed under your orders. If neither an A.A. ship nor sloop is available a destroyer must be used. (1st S.L., 1929/21 to C. in C. H.F.).

British Air Searches — For 21/4 (C. in C. Rosyth, 0210/21).
For 22/4 (C. in C., Rosyth, 2038/21, 0650/22).

Ships engaging aircraft — Experience shows that volume rather than accuracy of A.A. fire has prevented accurate bombing of ships by enemy. Neither ammunition, guns, or liner reserves will allow of this uneconomical form of defence. Every effort to be made for accuracy to be improved. Directions (C. in C., H.F. 1127/21)

War Diary

21.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

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War Diary

21.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norwegian Naval Forces.

In Hardanger Fiord

My 1835/20 (? Mge. TOR 0841/21). Norwegian Minor Naval forces in Hardanger Fiord have been sunk or captured (N.A. Norway TOR 1757/21).

Norwegian Warships

AUCKLAND's 1839/19. LAKS in German hands, Trondheim area. SKARV presumed captured at Egersund. SILD is safe and operating with SLEIPNER and TRYGG in Molde area. (S.N.O. Molde, 1030/21).

War Diary

21.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation XD (Holland & Belgium).

Ratings — Such party to total 20, including 1 signal man R.N.V.R. if available. (D.O.D.(H) 1147/21 to C. in C., Nore).

British Submarines

SEVERN — 2145/11 off Kristiansand fired 2 torpedoes at M.V. 6000 tons east bound, missed. Commenced attack on 2 WOLF class destroyers eastbound which altered course before torpedoes could be fired.

Bombed by own aircraft — 0804/21 bombed by own aircraft no damage (S.2 2231/21).

Positions — 0600/22 (R.A.(S) 1653/21, D.C. 2303/21).

Unsuccessful attack 15/4 on 2 merchant ships escorted by gunnery training vessel BRUMMER. 7 torpedoes remaining. (SHARK, 2358/21).

Troop Convoys

F.P.1. — Position (F.O.C. 18 C.S. 0845/21). Arrived Sullom Voe with French escort. (A.M.C. ELD-JEZAIR, 1615/21). To proceed to Clyde failing other instructions. (C. in C., H.F., 1401/21).

F.P.2. — Sailed, route. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0125/21). Position (FEARLESS 1800/21). Divert to Scapa (D.O.D.(H) 2216/21 to FEARLESS).

T.M.I. — S.S. LOCH MCGOWER to join (D.O.D.(H) 0110/21)

Convoy entered Namsen Fiord 2030 without incident. (BIRMINGHAM, 2134/21).

War Diary

21.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Stavanger

Air Attacks

Three aircraft bombed Stavanger aerodrome early this morning. 16 bombs were dropped, an explosion caused, and damage done to the runway. Balloons were run up following the attack. A large fire 5 miles to the north of the seaplane base was thought to be a decoy. (Donibristle, 0744/21).

4 Wellingtons attempted raid on Stavanger, but target not found owing to cloud at 300 ft. over land. (H.Q. B.C. 0340/21).

Attacked Stavanger aerodrome. 8 bombs dropped. Hits on aerodrome observed, ~~white~~ which was seen to be blazing fiercely prior to attack. Moderate A.A. fire, no fighter opposition. (H.Q., B.C., 1515/21).
Later attack (H.Q. B.C. 0425/22).

No activity observed in Stavanger aerodrome or Fjord. No sea traffic from JSND 3930 to LKND 0032 from 1841/1854 (Donibristle, 2105/21).

Bombed 3 seaplanes in cove N.W. of Stavanger shipway also sola aerodrome, near Stavanger 0200, bursts seen. 3 bursts seen on S.W. border of aerodrome, explosion of bomb caused another explosion on aerodrome, probably aircraft. Saw 7 balloons. Balloons were put up after bombing attack. Another aircraft dropped 6 250 lb bombs on Stavanger aerodrome, 2 or 3 exploded on point of intersection of runway. (H.Q.B.C. 0921/21). Wellington aircraft seen floating in sea 55:29 N. 2:51 E. at 2057 no sign of life. (H.Q.B.C. 0315/21).

Aalborg (Denmark).

Air Attacks

2 level attacks. Bombs seen to start 3 fires. (H.Q., B.C., 1010/21). Further attacks (H.Q.,B.C., 0445/22).

Operation RAKE (sweep into Skagerrak)

INDOMPTABLE
MALIN
TRIOMPHANT

Arrived Rosyth 0900/21 (C. in C., Rosyth, 1249/21).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Andalsnes, Aalesund, Molde.(contd.)

ARETHUSA (with R.A.F. base personnel for aerodrome)	Due Buddybet at dusk tomorrow 22nd S.N.O. Molde requested to arrange A/S sweep of Fiord by available vessels before her arrival and A/S protection while she unloads. Primrose requested to ensure rapid unloading of ARETHUSA particularly aviation spirit in cases. (C.S.2, 1410/21).
SHEFFIELD, GLASGOW, GALATEA	C.S.20's 0800/21. Intend SHEFFIELD to unload alongside Molde, GALATEA and destroyer alongside Aandalsnes, GLASGOW anchored Aandalsnes by destroyers and Puffer. Request water transport etc. (C.S.2, 1421/21, to C.S.20, CURACOA, S.N.O. Molde, Etc.).
Air Risk, Aandalsnes	It must be accepted that piers at Aandalsnes may be destroyed by aircraft at any time. Termination of operation on this account cannot be accepted, and you should accordingly be prepared to unload ships into small craft and land stores anywhere you can. Report what could be done about M.T. and guns in these circumstances. (D.O.D.(H) to S.N.O., Molde, 2013/21).
CURACOA	Am in Molde proceeding Aandalsnes when weather clears. (CURACOA, 2122/21). To remain at Aandalsnes as A/A guardship in accordance with Adty. 1929/21 (C. in C., H.F., 2230/21). Adty. 1929/21 see Namsos.

Christiansand

Air Reconnaissance.	No activity of note in harbour. Appeared impossible for submarines to torpedo ships without coming inside islands on west side of Fiord. (Donibristle, 2145/21).
Air attack on Aerodrome	By 6 Wellingtons 2200/20. All aircraft dropped their bombs, bursts seen on ground. 30-40 aircraft seen dispersed on south side near river and on N.W. side of aerodrome. No opposition from air or ground. (H.Q.B.C. 0505/21).

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

21.4.40.
Sunday

Operations

Aandalsnes, Aalesund, Molde.

Air Risk — In view of air attacks on A/S trawlers at Namsos Saturday I do not consider A/S trawlers should be sent to Aalesund and Aandalsnes area for the present. (C. in C., H.F., 0019/21)(see also Air).

PELICAN, Base Staff — Left 0300 for Aandalsnes with Naval Base Staff. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0229/21).

Landing at Molde — Following from S.N.O. Molde. Your 1705/20. Impossible for anyone to land whole force in one at Aandalsnes unsuitable for SHEFFIELD class. SHEFFIELD and GLASGOW should land personnel and stores at Molde xx one ship at a time for onward shipment by small craft, the remainder of the ships at Aandalsnes. (C.S. 20, 0800/21).

Enemy Air Concentration — Following from Primrose. R.M. officer commanding unit Aalesund reports daily passage of 25 large enemy aircraft of sea and land type. None ever seen returning south. Unconfirmed Norwegian reports state enemy concentration is at Vacones. (F.O. no C.S., 0930/21).

Ex-Norwegian Warships — AUCKLAND's 1839/19. LAKS in German Hands, Trondheim area, SKARV presumed captured Egersund, SILD is safe and operating with SLEIPNER and TRYGG in Molde area. (S.N.O., Molde, 1030/21).

Enemy aircraft crashed — 20/4. (AUCKLAND 0001/21).

AUCKLAND bombed. — 1630 to 1815 see Air.

Convoy AP1 — ST. SUNNIVA, ST MAGNUS escort JACKAL, JAGUAR arrived Aandalsnes (20th C.S. 1430/21).

Operation Sickle — R.A. Clark hoisted flag in SHEFFIELD 0800/21 (R.A. 18 C.S. 0900/21).